

student writes an examination each year in each subject he has studied. Pass standing is required before he is admitted to the following year. Passing the examinations of the final year entitles him to his degree, providing his standing in all years of the course is satisfactory. In some courses, especially honours courses, there may be comprehensive examinations in the final year covering the work of the last two or three years. In most universities, the bachelor's degree is awarded with first-class, second-class, or pass standing.

In the French-language institutions, courses leading to the bachelor of arts degree (B.A.) are usually offered at the classical colleges. These colleges, each of which is affiliated to one of the major French-language universities, are generally residential and restrict their enrolment to young men or to young women. The parent university exercises control over the programme of the colleges and confers the degrees. Students obtain a B.A. degree after an eight-year course, of which the first four years are at the secondary level and the last four constitute the "cours collégial". The degree they earn is a general degree; little specialization is available. A bachelor of arts degree is a prerequisite for admission to the study of medicine, law, theology, social sciences (Laval), pharmacy and dentistry at French-language universities. Students may enter courses leading to the bachelor's degree in engineering, commerce, science, education, physical education, forestry, agriculture, nursing, and social sciences (Montreal) direct from secondary school.

Advanced Study

Students who wish to study for an advanced degree must have obtained a bachelor's degree. The minimum time required for the second degree, the master's, is two years of study beyond the general bachelor's degree or one year of study beyond the honours bachelor's degree. The student is required to follow lectures in a specific number of subjects and, normally, to prepare a thesis. A satisfactory level of attainment is required in examinations on the subjects studied and also in the thesis. This emphasis on lectures, or "course work", distinguishes graduate study in Canada from that in many other countries.

The minimum time necessary for study towards the doctorate (Ph.D. or equivalent) is two years beyond the master's degree or three years beyond the honours bachelor's degree. However, a small number of students complete the degree programme in the minimum number of years. Students may often find that they will be asked to take a preliminary year of study before being given official status as candidates for the degree of their choice. This year may, in some cases, be regarded as a trial period and be counted as a year of study toward the degree. In other cases, it may be considered as additional to the years of study normally required.