**Widener University Academic Program Descriptions**

**A**

**Academic Program**: (Relates to [Degree](https://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/glossary#_Degree), [Major](https://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/glossary#_Major), Minor, [Program](https://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/glossary#_Program)) Any grouping of subject matter courses which, when satisfactorily completed by a student, shall entitle the student to a credential from an institution of higher education.

**Accelerated Program:** A course of study that allows a student to earn a graduate degree within an accelerated timetable. Examples include: [Criminal Justice Accelerated, BA/MA](https://catalog.widener.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=21&poid=3926&returnto=651); [Nursing, Accelerated MSN/PhD](https://catalog.widener.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=23&poid=4303&returnto=701)

**B**

**Bachelor’s Degree:**A term used to describe undergraduate education, bachelor’s degree programs are typically completed within four to five years and require a minimum of 120 credit hours to obtain a degree. Bachelor’s degrees are designated as B.A for Bachelor’s of Arts, or B.S. for Bachelor’s of Science. Bachelor’s degrees may be further modified with field of study, i.e. BSN Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing; BSW Bachelor’s of Science in Social Work, and BSB Bachelor’s of Science in Business.

**C**

**Certificate:** (Relates to[**Certificate, Nontranscript**](https://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/glossary#_Certificate,_Non-transcript-recogni)**ed** and[**Certificate, Transcripted**](https://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/glossary#_Certificate,_Transcript-recognized)) A term used to describe an undergraduate or graduate non-degree credit bearing program. Certificates may include courses from more than one school or college.

**Certificate, Nontranscripted:** A defined list of courses offered by an undergraduate or graduate academic unit (department, center, institute, school, or college), yet does not appear on the transcript as a separate credential.

**Certificate, Transcripted:** A defined list of courses offered by an undergraduate or graduate academic unit (department, center, institute, school, or college), and appears on the transcript as a separate credential.

**Certificate, Stackable:** A set of certificates that may be “stacked” together to be applied towards a master’s degree program.

**Certification**: Faculty endorse certifying a student for eligibility for credential. Typically,most certifications are for the Pennsylvania Department of Education PK-12 certifications [eg: PK-12 teacher, professional school counselor, superintendent, principal].

**Co-Op**: Some programs may have an option to work in a related industry while receiving credit within the program. Co-Op programs are managed by individual academic units. Co-Op programs have their own unique sequence of course of study.

**D**

**Degree**: (Relates to [Credential](https://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/glossary#_Credential), [Dual degree](https://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/glossary#_Dual_degree)) The academic credential the University confers to a student for completed work in a program of study. Undergraduate degrees include Associate’s and Bachelor’s Degrees. Graduate degrees include Master’s and Doctoral Degrees.

**Dual Degree** **Program**: represents a student enrolled in two separate programs, and receiving two separate diplomas for two separate types of degree. The two degrees may be two Undergraduate Degrees or two Graduate degrees. Examples include [Psychology/Social Work, BA/BSW](https://catalog.widener.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=21&poid=3921&returnto=651) or Human Sexuality/Social Work MEd/MSW.

**Dual Major Program**: represents a student enrolled in two disciplines but receiving a single diploma with a single degree.  The two majors are listed in the title of one degree. An example is [Political Science and Criminal Justice, BA](https://catalog.widener.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=21&poid=3914&returnto=651)

**I**

**Interdisciplinary Major or Minor**: Undergraduate majors and minors are considered Interdisciplinary when they include courses and requirements from more than one field of study or discipline and may not fall under a single department or established program. Examples: [African and African American Studies Minor](https://catalog.widener.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=21&poid=3696&returnto=651); [Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies, BA](https://catalog.widener.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=21&poid=3695&returnto=651)

**M**

**Major**: Primary area of study that can lead to an undergraduate degree through coursework; the subject area in which a student pursuing a college degree develops the greatest depth of knowledge, competence, and understanding.

**Minor**: Transcript-recognized complementary undergraduate area of study comprised of a designated group of classes in a discipline that is ***outside*** the major area of study or is [interdisciplinary](https://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/glossary#_Interdisciplinary) and offers less depth and breadth than a major. Leads to an institutional credential awarded and recognized via the transcript once requirements are met.

**N**

**Non-Credit Programs:** Non-credit programs are not usually listed in the Academic Catalog. See <https://lifelonglearning.widener.edu/>.

**P**

**Program**: (Relates to [Degree](https://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/glossary#_Degree_Program)) Catch-all word used to generically describe a category defined by a common grouping such as academic or educational program, funding source, non-academic program, or characteristic that is institutionally approved and managed with oversight. Examples: Honors program, Osher Lifelong Learning program, Education Certification program, etc.

**S**

**Specialization**: (Relates to [Major](https://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/glossary#_Major), and Degree; formerly Concentration, Track, Option) An approved and defined group of courses ***within*** an undergraduate major or graduate degree program published in the university catalog that allows a student to focus in a particular area within the program. Specializations are displayed on the transcript.

**T**

**Transcripted**: Credential that appears on the University transcript.