

### Three-Year Baccalaureate Degree

To be eligible for post-baccalaureate or graduate study, an applicant must provide evidence of the equivalent of a four-year U.S. baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution. To determine equivalency, the educational system of that country is considered and how advanced degrees are earned, including the role of primary and secondary education. The typical United States education requires a 12 + 4 primary/secondary/ baccalaureate system. An evaluation of the applicant's relevant educational system is required to determine equivalency before the file is reviewed for admission. Variations in educational systems will be evaluated in the following manner:

|            |                 |                 |                    |  |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| Category 1 | 13 years of P/S | 3 years of B.A. | Equivalent to U.S. | No restrictions                            |
| Category 2 | 12 years of P/S | 3 years of B.A. | Equivalent to U.S. | Invokes 3-year policy                      |
| Category 2 | 11 years of P/S | 4 years of B.A. | Equivalent to U.S. | Invokes 3-year policy                      |
| Category 2 | 10 years of P/S | 5 years of B.A. | Equivalent to U.S. | Invokes 3-year policy                      |
| Category 3 | 11 years of P/S | 3 years of B.A. | Not Equivalent     | Considered associate degree; transfer only |
| Category 3 | 10 years of P/S | 4 years of B.A. | Not Equivalent     | Considered associate degree; transfer only |
| Category 4 | 10 years of P/S | 3 years of B.A. | Not Equivalent     | 1 year maximum of transfer credit only     |

If the program length in the applicant's educational records necessitates action under the three-year bachelor's policy, official recognition/accreditation of the program and institution is assessed through the proper authority from the home country. As well as establishing institutional recognition, the evaluator reviews the design and intent of the degree under consideration. An eligible three-year degree should be earned in an academic discipline with further study available rather than a technical degree considered the terminal degree for a particular vocation, e.g. Bachelor of Technology degree from the U.K.

A general education deficiency exists for some three-year bachelor degrees, so an additional requirement is necessary for applicants in Category 2 educational systems. Applicants from these systems must all provide official scores reflecting successful completion of an entrance exam (GRE, GMAT, or MAT as determined by the program) to help determine the applicant is ready for study at the graduate level.

Once all established benchmarks have been met, the applicant with a three-year degree in Category 1 or 2, regardless of country of origin or educational system, can be considered for graduate-level admission.

When the evaluator determines the earned degree does not meet a four-year baccalaureate equivalency, the applicant has several choices to remedy the deficiency:

1. Earn an additional post-baccalaureate advanced degree or professional one-year certificate.
2. Enter a university as an undergraduate transfer student and take the necessary courses required for a baccalaureate degree.
3. Enroll in a formal U.S. degree completion program at an accredited institution.

The Bachelor of Humanities degree earned by Seattle University Matteo Ricci College graduates is considered equivalent to a four-year degree and eligible for all graduate-level considerations at Seattle University. Other degrees of this nature would be evaluated based upon the [Matteo Ricci College](#) model. See **Policy #90-1** for more details.

Occasionally, applicants for graduate programs will have already earned an advanced professional degree in the U.S. without earning a four-year baccalaureate degree e.g. Creighton University Dental School graduates. In such instances, we would be able to consider the applicant on the basis of their advanced degree as well as their undergraduate coursework.

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