



Occupational Education and Training Definitions

Postsecondary awards

- **First professional degree.** Completion of the degree usually requires at least 3 years of full-time academic study beyond a bachelor's degree.
- **Doctoral degree.** Completion of a Ph.D. or other doctoral degree usually requires at least 3 years of full-time academic study beyond a bachelor's degree.
- **Master's degree.** Completion of the degree usually requires 1 or 2 years of full-time academic study beyond a bachelor's degree.
- **Bachelor's or higher degree, plus work experience.** Most occupations in this category are management occupations. All require experience in a related non-management position for which a bachelor's or higher degree is usually required.
- **Bachelor's degree.** Completion of the degree generally requires at least 4 years, but not more than 5 years, of full-time academic study.
- **Associate degree.** Completion of the degree usually requires at least 2 years of full-time academic study.
- **Postsecondary vocational award.** Some programs last only a few weeks while others may last more than a year. Programs lead to a certificate or other award but not a degree.

Work-related training

- **Work experience in a related occupation.** Many occupations requiring work experience are first-line supervisors/managers of service, sales and related, production, or other occupations, or are management occupations.
- **Long-term on-the-job training.** More than 12 months of on-the-job training or combined work experience and formal classroom instruction are needed for workers to develop the skills necessary to be fully qualified. This category includes formal and informal apprenticeships that may last up to 5 years. Long-term on-the-job training also includes intensive occupation-specific, employer-sponsored programs that workers must successfully complete. These include fire and police academies and schools for air traffic controllers and flight attendants. In other occupations insurance sales and securities sales, for trainees take formal courses, often provided on the job site, to prepare for the required licensing exams. Individuals undergoing training generally are considered to be employed in the occupation. Also included in this category is the development of a natural ability such as that possessed by musicians, athletes, actors, and other entertainers that must be cultivated over several years, frequently in a non-work setting.
- **Moderate-term on-the-job training.** Skills needed to be fully qualified can be acquired during 1 to 12 months of combined on-the-job experience and informal training.
- **Short-term on-the-job training.** Skills needed to be fully qualified can be acquired during a short demonstration of job duties or during 1 month or less of on-the-job experience or instruction.

Source: <http://www.bls.gov/emp/noeted/empnumb.htm>