



# **ALL ABOUT 3-YEAR DEGREES**

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**MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN • OCTOBER 29, 2025**



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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**Attendees will develop a more comprehensive understanding of the different kinds of 3-year degrees that international students possess.**

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**Attendees will be able to better understand how they can approach different 3-year degrees and how they relate with a country's education system vs the US system.**

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**Attendees will engage in active discussion regarding how their institutions would/should handle 3-year degree programs.**

# Discussion Question 1:

**Fill in the blank:**

**“My admissions office accepts [BLANK] 3-year degrees for graduate admissions.”**

**1) ANY**

**2) SOME**

**3) NO**



# US

From Inside Higher Ed: [A New Push to Create a 3-Year Degree Option](#) (soft-ish paywall)

- ❖ Exploring three-year degrees as an option for cost-effectiveness.

From Business Insider: [Gen Z is the New Threat to the American College Experience](#) (paywall)

- ❖ Could reducing the total years of study increase the Gen Z enrollment numbers?

# US

- [Northwood University Makes History with One of Nation's First 3-Year Bachelor's Degrees.](#)

***Bachelor of Applied Science in Cybersecurity is a groundbreaking 90-credit degree that delivers bachelor's-level outcomes with greater flexibility and a faster path to the workforce***

“Students selecting this program will decrease time-to-completion, with a curriculum focused on application,” explained Professor Sanford, who chairs Northwood’s **Management Information Systems** program. “The *Bachelor of Science in Information Systems and Cybersecurity* (120 hours) will continue to serve as a traditional pathway to prepare graduates for advanced degrees and to further customize and diversify their skillsets.”

# US

- Reducing credit load from 120 to 90 credits (for most fields).
- Refining the curriculum by reducing certain requirements and enhancing the focus on what is required for the degree.
- Grants access to workforce, but could they grant access to graduate programs one day?



## Discussion Question 2:

**“Now that there are universities in the US offering 3-year degrees, my office will likely update its admissions policies.”**

**1) TRUE**

**2) FALSE**

## Discussion Question 3:

**“At which percentage of commonality would your office accept 3-year US bachelor’s degrees equally as much as 4-year degrees?”**

1)  $\leq 25\%$

2)  $\sim 50\%$

3)  $\geq 75\%$



# UK

- Typically requires completion of at least 3 Advanced Level (A-level) exams.
- Can be 4 years if students enroll without A-levels, but this is not as common.
- Three years, typically situated at UK NQF Level 6.
- Grants access to masters/postgraduate/Level 7 programs.

# Australia, New Zealand, South Africa

- Each country follows their own respective NQF systems.
  - And, within each NQF, there are individual levels for “ordinary” bachelor’s degrees and “honors” bachelor’s degrees.
- Ordinary bachelor’s degrees, unlike their honors counterparts, seldomly grant access to master’s programs.
  - However, in Australia, there appears to be an emergence of selective master’s programs that allow the ordinary bachelor’s degree for admission.
- Majority of ordinary degrees are 3 years.
- In South Africa, there were once ordinary degrees that were 4 years (mainly in education).



## Discussion Question 4:

**“My office does not care about NQF levels—we only care about years.”**

**1) TRUE**

**2) FALSE**

# Australia Case:



## AWARDS

Bachelor of Health Sciences  
Major: Health Sciences  
Major: Management  
Conferred on 25 March 2011

Master of Public Health  
Conferred on 10 May 2013

## COURSE HISTORY

Details of Bachelor of Health Sciences  
2008 Bachelor of Health Sciences

Valid only for viewing on My eQuals. See <https://www.myequals.edu.au/receiving-documents/> for more.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

OFFICIAL ACADEMIC RECORD

**AWARDS**

Bachelor of Health Sciences  
Major: Health Sciences  
Major: Management  
Conferred on 25 March 2011 Final result: Pass

Master of Public Health  
Conferred on 10 May 2013 Final result: Pass

**COURSE HISTORY**

Details of Bachelor of Health Sciences

2008 Bachelor of Health Sciences

		Grade	Marks	Units
Semester 1				
BIOL1003	Human Biology	FA	43.0	6.0
HSBH1006	Foundations of Health Science	CR	69.0	6.0
HSBH1007	Health Science and Research	CR	74.0	6.0
PSYC1001	Psychology 1001	PS	55.0	6.0
Semester 2				
HSBH1008	Health Determinants and Interventions	CR	67.0	6.0
HSBH1009	Health Care Resources and Systems	CR	67.0	6.0
MKTG1001	Marketing Principles	PS	60.0	6.0
WORK1003	Foundations of Work and Employment	PS	59.0	6.0
2009 Bachelor of Health Sciences				
Semester 1				
HSBH3004	Health, Ethics and the Law	CR	65.0	6.0
HSBH3006	Research Methods in Health	PS	63.0	6.0
WORK2201	Foundations of Management	PS	50.0	6.0
WORK2205	Human Resource Processes	FA	40.0	0.0
WORK2218	People and Organisations	PS	55.0	6.0
Summer Main				
BIOL1001	Concepts in Biology	PS	59.0	6.0
Semester 2				
HSBH3003	Health Service Strategy and Policy	CR	65.0	6.0
WORK2210	Strategic Management	FA	38.0	0.0
WORK2211	Human Resource Strategies	FA	42.0	0.0
WORK2221	Organisational Communication	PS	60.0	6.0

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THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Final

Final result: Pass

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THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

OFFICIAL ACADEMIC RECORD

2010 Bachelor of Health Sciences

		Grade	Marks	Units
Semester 1				
AMSS2023	Photography 1	CR	73.0	6.0
HSBH3002	Health Information Science	CR	65.0	6.0
WORK2205	Human Resource Processes	PS	61.0	6.0
WORK2209	Organisational Analysis and Behaviour	PS	61.0	6.0
Summer Early				
DAAE2005	Designing with Colour 1	PS	50.0	6.0
DESA1004	Designing with Surfaces and Light	PS	53.0	6.0
Semester 2				
HSBH3005	Evidence Based Health Care	CR	70.0	6.0
WORK2217	International Human Resource Management	PS	54.0	6.0
WORK2219	Management and Organisational Ethics	PS	50.0	6.0
WORK2222	Leadership in Organisations	CR	65.0	6.0
		Course total	144.0	
Details of Graduate Diploma in Public Health				
2011 Graduate Diploma in Public Health				
		Grade	Marks	Units
Semester 2				
HPOL5003	Analysing Health Policy	DI	77.0	6.0
MIPH5219	International Health Project Management	CR	71.0	6.0
PUBH5113	International Health	CR	66.0	4.0
PUBH5415	Injury Prevention	DI	78.0	2.0
Semester 2B				
PUBH5308	Health Workforce Policy Analysis	CR	70.0	2.0
		Course total	20.0	
Details of Master of Public Health				
Credit from other studies				
		Grade	Marks	Units
The University of Sydney				
HPOL5003	Analysing Health Policy			6.0
MIPH5219	International Health Project Management			6.0
PUBH5113	International Health			4.0
PUBH5308	Health Workforce Policy Analysis			2.0
PUBH5415	Injury Prevention			2.0
		Credit total	20.0	
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## OFFICIAL ACADEMIC RECORD

### 2012 Master of Public Health

		Grade	Marks	Units
Semester 1				
PUBH5010	Epidemiology Methods and Uses	CR	68.0	6.0
PUBH5018	Introductory Biostatistics	PS	58.0	6.0
PUBH5033	Disease Prevention and Health Promotion	PS	61.0	6.0
Intensive April				
PUBH5031	Introductory Qualitative Methods	PS	56.0	2.0
PUBH5032	Making Decisions in Public Health	CR	65.0	2.0
Intensive March				
PUBH5030	Public Health: Achievements and Challenges	CR	68.0	2.0
Semester 2				
PUBH5034	Public Health Capstone	DI	77.0	4.0
		Course total	48.0	

Professor Joanne Wright  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)  
8 August 2023

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End of Transcript.

Page 3 of 3



# Australia Case:

## Bachelor of Health Sciences

3 years full-time (4 years honours)

UAC Code: 512670

UAC fee code: 522670

CRICOS code: 040251E

[Online enquiries](#)

The Bachelor of Health Sciences is designed to provide you with flexibility and choice.

The *Bachelor of Health Sciences* provides a broad understanding of health care and a foundation in the biological sciences including human biochemistry, anatomy and physiology.

You have the option of specialising by choosing one of the specialist streams to gain skills in a specific area. Specialist streams begin in Year 2 and all students complete a common first year, so you will have plenty of time to think about the path you want to pursue.

# Australia Case:

## Course structure

Enrolling students are required to complete a total of 48 credit points by the end of the coursework program in order to satisfy MPH degree regulations. These can be studied on a full-time or part-time basis, however, if you are an international student on a student visa you will need to study full-time, to satisfy the conditions of your visa.

How do the changes to MPH affect [current Public Health students?](#)

In 2010, the total of 48 credit points includes:

- [28 credit points of compulsory core units of study](#) - which provide you with the basic knowledge and skills for practice as a public health professional, AND
- [20 credit points of elective units of study](#) - where you can specialise within an area appropriate to your career interests, or select units from a number of areas

All core units of study are offered in Semester 1, apart from the Capstone, which is offered in Semester 2. Most elective units are offered in Semester 2.

Note that you may commence your studies mid-year - that is, at the beginning of Semester 2. However you will have missed core concepts and content from Semester 1 and will have a reduced choice of electives, as some of these have Core unit pre-requisites.

The table below summarises the course structure and requirements for the MPH program. *NOTE - this table is based on enrolment as a full-time student.*

Unit of study code	Unit of study name	Credit point (CP) value	Total credit points
Semester 1 - 24 credit points			
Core compulsory units of study			
PUBH5010	<a href="#">Epidemiology Methods and Uses</a>	6CP	
PUBH5018	<a href="#">Introductory Biostatistics</a>	6CP	
PUBH5030	<a href="#">Public Health: Achievements and Challenges</a>	2CP	
PUBH5031*	<a href="#">Introductory Qualitative Methods</a>	2CP	
PUBH5032	<a href="#">Making Decisions in Public Health</a>	2CP	
PUBH5033	<a href="#">Disease Prevention and Health Promotion</a>	6CP	
			24
Semester 2 - 24 credit points			
Core unit of study			
<a href="#">PUBH5034 Public Health capstone 4CP</a>			
Elective units of study			
A choice of <a href="#">elective units of study</a>			
			24
Total credit points:			48



# India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal

- India has both 3-year BA/BSc/BCom/BBA/BCA degrees and 4-year B.Tech., B.E., and honors degrees—they all grant access to master's programs.
  - ❖ And there's 3-year post-bachelor's degrees like the LLB!
- Pakistan used to operate 2-year bachelor (pass) degrees along with 3-year honors programs. Most universities are now offering 4-year programs.
- Bangladesh followed a similar path as Pakistan, phasing out their pass degrees at a later point.
  - Both pass and honors degrees would grant access to master's programs, and those master's degrees could grant access to 16-year admission requirement master's programs.
- Nepal also had a 2-year bachelor's degree but phased theirs out in 1997.

## Discussion Question 5:

**“In my office, a 1- to 2-year master’s degree following a 3-year bachelor’s degree is considered equivalent to a bachelor’s degree ONLY.”**

**1) TRUE**

**2) FALSE**



# Mexico and Dominican Republic

- Licentiate (*Licenciado/a*) programs are 4 to 6 years, depending on the field of study.
- Some schools in each country operate according to “quartermesters” (*cuatremesteres*).
  - Students will complete back-to-back four-month terms, in just three years time.
- Schools in the Dominican Republic will have established credit totals for their programs. 3- and 4-year programs will sometimes have similar totals.



# Dominican Republic Case:



## TOTALES FINALES

Título que se Otorga	Licenciado (a) en Educación Mención Educación Inicial
Total de Créditos	188
Total de Horas	2,820
Total de Horas Teóricas	168x15= 2,775
Total de Horas Prácticas	40/2x15=300
Total de Asignaturas	59

Graduado de:	LICENCIADO (A) EN EDUCACIÓN MENCIÓN EDUCACIÓN INICIAL		
Fecha Graduación	02/08/2018		
Créditos de la Carrera	155	CAL	Cal
Créditos Examen de Nivel	0	CR	Cré
Créditos Cursados	148	L	Not
Créditos Convalidados	0	PUNT	Pun
Créditos Validados	0		
Total de Créditos Aprobados	155		

\*155 credits



# Brazil

- Bachelor's (*Bacharel*) degrees are usually 4 to 6 years.
- Some fields, such as Civil Aviation, tend to only have 3-year options at universities that are authorized to offer this major.
- There are other programs that can have seven semesters (3.5 years)
- [e-MEC](#) will have information on most programs, including length.



Brazil

- DETALHES
- ATO REGULATÓRIO
- PROCESSOS E-MEC
- OCORRÊNCIAS

DETALHES DA IES

(Código) Nome da IES:

(466)UNIVERSIDADE ANHEMBI MORUMBI - UAM  
Em supervisão - Procedimento Sancionador sem Medida Cautelar: *Portaria nº 288, de 08/08/2023- DOU 09/08/2023, art. 1º. Portaria nº 193, de 21/05/2024- DOU 22/05/2024, art. 1º.*

Situação: Ativa

RELAÇÃO DE CURSOS

Código	Modalidade	Grau	Curso	UF	Município	ENADE	CPC	CC	IDD	Situação
51249	Presencial	Bacharelado	AVIAÇÃO CIVIL	SP	São Paulo	-	-	5	-	
116418	Presencial	Bacharelado	AVIAÇÃO CIVIL	SP	São Paulo	-	-	5	-	

Registro(s): 1 a 2 de 2

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Página 1 de 1

20

DETALHES DO CURSO - (51249) Bacharelado em AVIAÇÃO CIVIL

(Código) Grau	Modalidade	Data de início de funcionamento	Data prevista de início	Gratuito	Carga horária do Curso	Periodicidade (Integralização)	Coordenador	Situação de Funcionamento	Vagas Anuais Autorizadas
(51249) Bacharelado	Educação Presencial	12/02/2001	-	Não	2500 horas	Matutino - 6 semestres Noturno - 6 semestres	Alexandre Faro Kaperaviczus	Em atividade	400

# Israel

- There are 3-year and 4-year degrees.
  - The secondary maturity exam (*Bagrut*) does not grant any advanced standing for entry into 3-year programs.
- 3-year degrees are considered equally viable for graduate admissions, despite a shorter length. Credit load is typically on-par with four-year programs.

## Discussion Question 6:

**“How does your office determine if a 3-year program is ‘equivalent’ or ‘comparable to’ a full US bachelor’s degree?”**



# Bonus Case – Hong Kong:





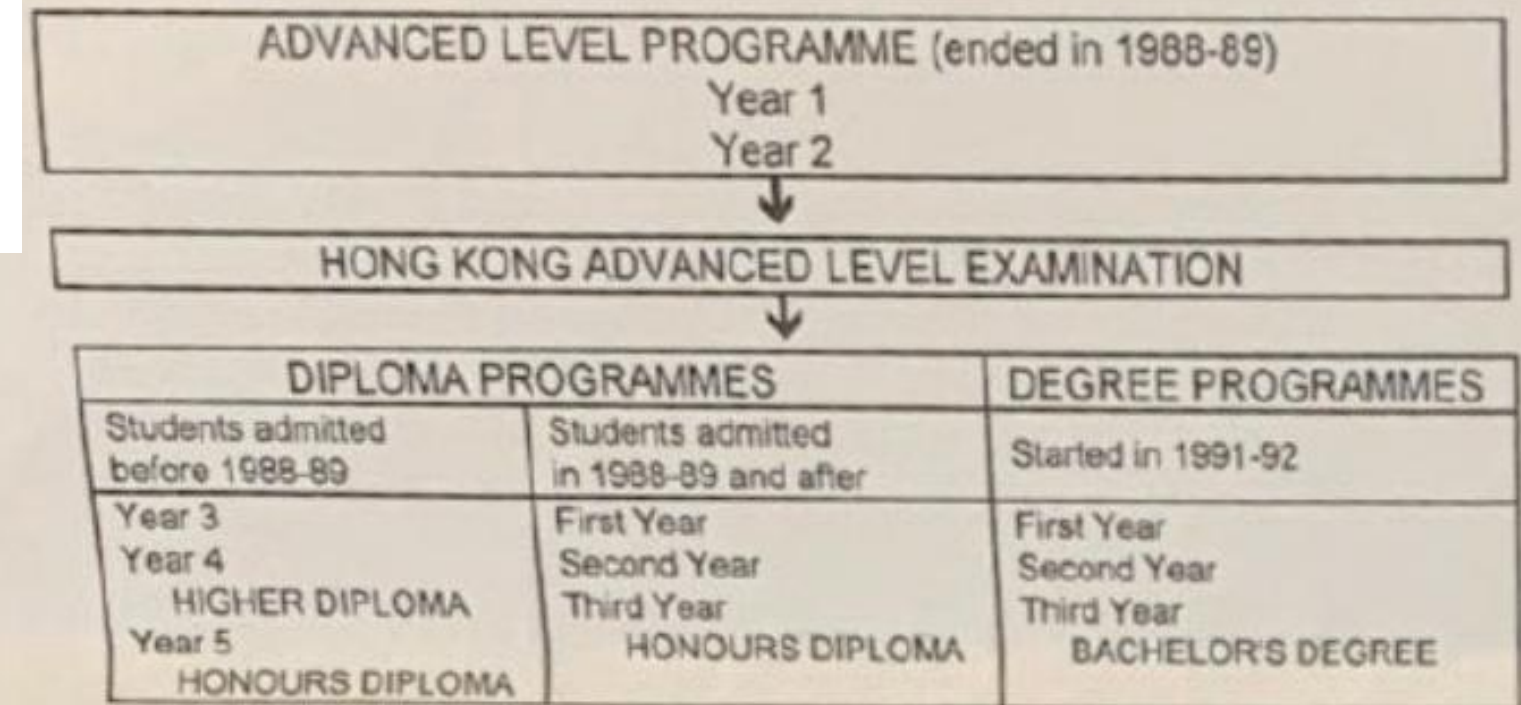
# Bonus Case – Hong Kong:

TRANSCRIPT

Name	[REDACTED]	Attendance	: 1 Oct 1991 to 31 Aug 1994
Student No.	[REDACTED]	Study Programme	: Company Secretaryship and Administration
HKID Card No.	[REDACTED]	Concentration	: XXXXXX
Level	: Honours Diploma	Programme Duration	: 3 Years
Department	: Accounting & Finance	Mode of Attendance	: Full-time
Faculty	: Business	Higher Diploma conferred on	: XXXXXX
		Honours Diploma conferred on	: 17 Nov 1994
		Degree conferred on	: XXXXXX

## THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Lingnan was relit from College to University following the enactment of the Lingnan University Ordinance in July 1999 by the Government. Formerly, in September 1979, the College adopted the 2.2.1 system. The first part of this system consisted of the two-year Advanced Level Programme in preparation for the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination. Year 3 and Year 4, leading to the award of the Lingnan Higher Diploma, formed the second part of the system. The third part was Year 5, leading to the award of the Honours Diploma. In September 1988, the 2.2.1 System was abolished by admitting students only to three-year Honours Diploma Programmes. The Advanced Level Programme was completely phased out by the end of the academic year 1988-89. From September 1989, Diploma Programme students have been classified as First Year, Second Year and Third Year instead of Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5. In 1991-92, Degree Programmes were launched. Degree Programme students are classified as First Year, Second Year and Third Year.



## PIER 1998 Hong Kong:

programs in Chinese and Business Administration. Until the 1994-95 academic year, students holding diplomas could complete conversion programs to upgrade diplomas to degrees. Since then, students are admitted only for degree programs. Currently Lingnan College relies on the HKCAA for validation of its degree programs, but is moving in the direction of becoming a self-accredited degree-granting institution.



## Bonus Question:

**“Hypothetical: if the US were to adopt a 3-year bachelor’s degree as a universal standard, do you think your office will accept 3-year non-bachelor’s degree diplomas for graduate admissions?”**

# Questions (for us)?



# Thank you!

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