

# All About 3-year Degrees

Michigan Association of International Educators 2025

Brock Goldflies  
Scholaro Inc.

# Introductions

# Outline

- US and emerging 3-year degree discussions
- UK, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa
- India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal
- Mexico and Dominican Republic
- Brazil
- Israel

# Discussion Question 1:

**“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

- 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.

## Discussion Question 2:

**“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 are ordinary degrees that are 4 years. These are mainly in education.

## Discussion Question 3:

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

**1) TRUE**

**2) FALSE**

## Discussion Question 4:

**“My office would accept a 4-year ‘ordinary’ bachelor’s degree for admission.”**

**1) TRUE**

**2) FALSE**

# 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 “quatermesters” (*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:



**UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA  
SANTO DOMINGO**  
*Haciendo Camino al Andar*

**Licenciatura en Educación  
Mención Educación Inicial**  
Facultad de Educación | Escuela de Educación  
Leyenda T = Teórica P = Práctica TH = Total de Horas C = Créditos

Código de la Carrera 3211202 2014-2 / V-1-5

## 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
Créditos Examen de Nivel	0
Créditos Cursados	149
Créditos Convalidados	0
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	-	

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 credit load.

## Discussion Question 6:

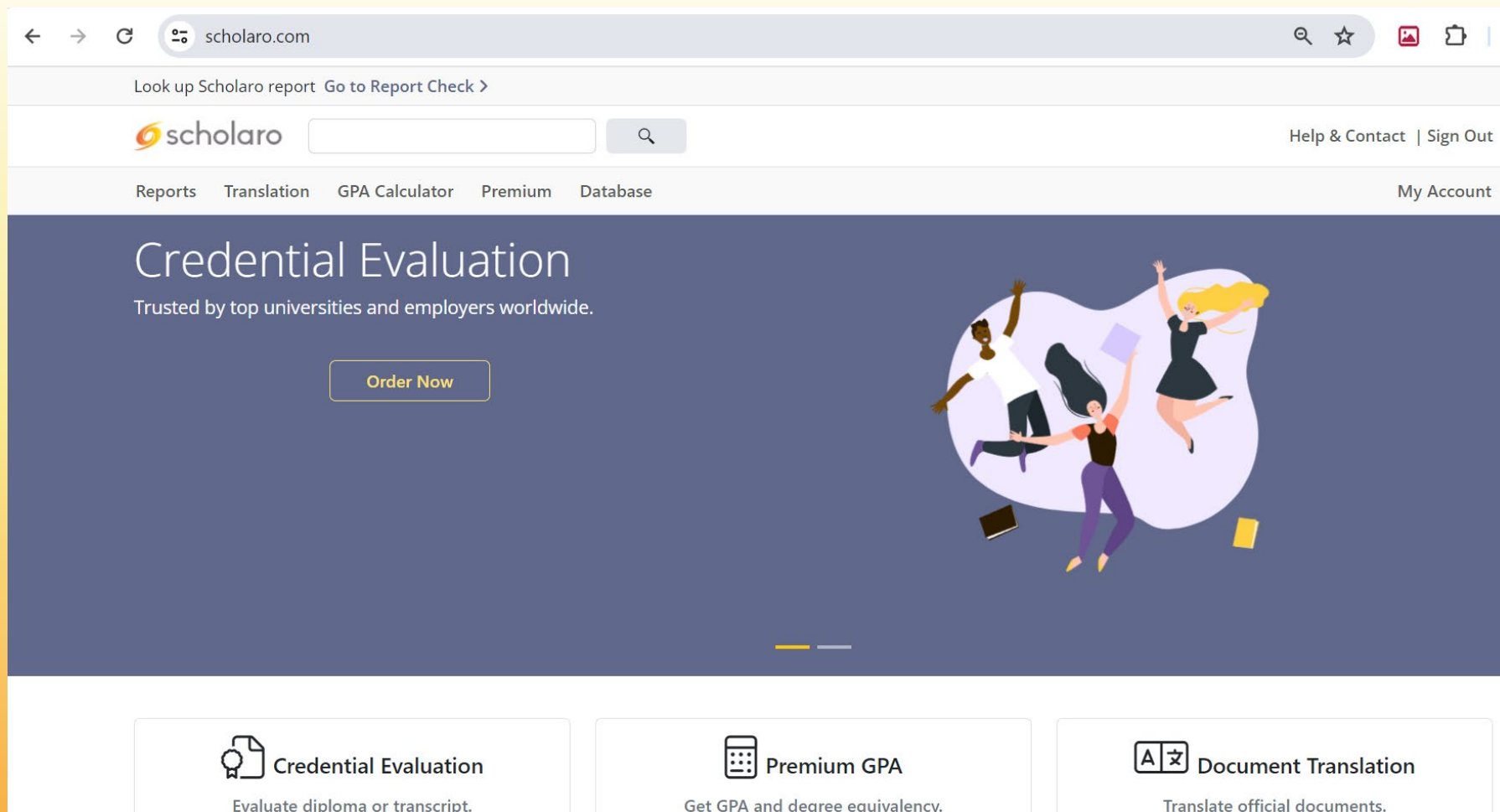
**“How does your office determine if a 3-year program is ‘equivalent’ or ‘comparable to’ a full US bachelor’s degree?”**

## Bonus 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 me)?

# Thank you!

A screenshot of the Scholaro website. The browser address bar shows 'scholaro.com'. The website header includes a search bar, 'Help & Contact | Sign Out', and navigation links: 'Reports', 'Translation', 'GPA Calculator', 'Premium', 'Database', and 'My Account'. The main content area has a dark blue background with the text 'Credential Evaluation' and 'Trusted by top universities and employers worldwide.' Below this is an 'Order Now' button. To the right is an illustration of four people jumping joyfully. At the bottom, there are three service cards: 'Credential Evaluation' (Evaluate diploma or transcript.), 'Premium GPA' (Get GPA and degree equivalency.), and 'Document Translation' (Translate official documents.).

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## Credential Evaluation


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