



DEFINITION OF “UNIVERSITY” IN NEW YORK STATE

Higher Education Committee
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New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

NYS Definition of University

Adopted by the Regents in 1969, the Current Definition of “**University**” in NYS (Commissioner’s Regulations §50.1(I)): (I) University means a higher educational institution offering:

- A range of registered undergraduate and graduate curricula in the liberal arts and sciences;
- Degrees in two or more professional fields; and
- Doctoral programs in at least three academic fields.

College means “a higher educational institution authorized by the Regents to confer degrees.”

Regents grandfathered in institutions already using “university” in their name prior to 1969.

What is an Academic Field?

“University...[offers] doctoral programs in at least 3 academic fields”

- No definition of “academic fields” exists in statute or regulations.
- **Graduate academic degree** programs are defined as advanced studies in an academic discipline that:
 - Contribute to knowledge of subject matter, rather than specific applications of knowledge to professional practices;
 - Emphasize theory and are not primarily designed as preparation for professional careers; and
 - Include research preparing for a life of scholarship in an academic discipline.
- The only degree conferred upon completion of a doctoral academic program is the **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)** (*Regents Rule 3.47*)

Professional Degrees

- Graduate **professional degree** programs are comprised of advanced studies in professional or vocational fields.
 - While they may have strong theoretical underpinnings, they must have as their primary purpose knowledge for application in professional practice.
- All doctorate-level degrees, other than the Ph.D., are recognized in Regents Rule 3.47 as “professional doctorates,” for example:
 - Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)
 - Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.)
 - Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.)
 - Doctor of Engineering (D.Eng.)
 - Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)
 - Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)
 - Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)
 - Doctor of Law (J.D.)

Massachusetts & SUNY/CUNY

- New York State is the only state that has any requirement for **doctoral programs** in order to use the term “university” in the title of an institution.
- Massachusetts had a requirement for 3 doctoral programs until 2010 and no longer requires any doctoral programs to use “university” in the title. Massachusetts does require that “universities” have programs in four or more distinct professional fields, which is not required in New York’s regulations.
- The statutes that created SUNY and CUNY systems name and/or define institutions within those systems.

College to University Requests

Some independent colleges have requested that they be permitted to change their names to use “university” instead of college. In support of their requests, they have raised issues including:

- Institutions are at a competitive disadvantage when recruiting both nationally and internationally (i.e. internationally a “college” often refers to a secondary institution, not to an institution of higher education).
- Regulations/Policy do not reflect importance of graduate/doctoral **professional degree programs** which include critical workforce development areas, such as Education, PT, Dentistry, Nursing, Medicine, etc.

College to University Requests

Some Colleges believe they currently meet the regulatory requirements; however, due to lack of clarity related to “doctoral program” and “academic field” requirement definitions, they have not been approved.

| | Total # of Doctoral Degree Programs | Total # of Doctoral Degree Awards Used | HEGIS Codes Used Doctoral Programs | # of different HEGIS code disciplines Doctoral Programs | Range of UG & Grad curricula in LAS? | Degrees in 2 or more professional fields? | 3 PhD Programs in 3 separate disciplines? |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| College A | 9 | 5 EDD DC DPT DNP Pharm D | 6 1299 Health Prof Other 0827 Educ Admin 1221 Chiro 1212 Physical Therapy 1203.1 Nursing (Bacc+) 1211 Pharmacy | 2 Education Health Professions | Has UG and Grad programs | Yes | No |
| College B | 18 | 6 PhD JD DPT DO DDS Pharm D | 6 0399 Humanities Area Studies 1401 Law 1212 Physical Therapy 1210 Osteopathic Med 1204 Dentistry 1211 Pharmacy | 3 Humanities Social Sciences Health Professions | Has UG and Grad programs | Yes | No |

Carnegie Basic Classification of Institutions of Higher Education

| | |
|---|---|
| Doctoral Universities | Includes institutions that awarded at least 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees during the update year and also institutions with below 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees that awarded at least 30 professional practice doctoral degrees in at least 2 programs. |
| Master's Colleges & Universities | Generally includes institutions that awarded at least 50 master's degrees and fewer than 20 doctoral degrees during the update year. |
| Baccalaureate Colleges | Includes institutions where baccalaureate or higher degrees represent at least 50 percent of all degrees but where fewer than 50 master's degrees or 20 doctoral degrees were awarded during the update year. |
| Associate's Colleges | Institutions at which the highest level degree awarded is an associate's degree. |



*Basic Classification also includes Baccalaureate/Assoc; Special Focus; Tribal Colleges

*Most recent update year was 2018.

Carnegie Basic Higher Education Classification

| | US IHEs* | US IHE % | NYS IHEs | NYS IHE % | US Enrollment* | US Enrollment % |
|--------------------------------|-------------|----------|------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Doctoral Universities | 418 | 10% | 30 | 12% | 7,229,265 | 36% |
| Master's Colleges/Universities | 685 | 16% | 54 | 22% | 3,955,922 | 20% |
| Baccalaureate Colleges | 575 | 13% | 31 | 13% | 898,818 | 4% |
| Bacc/Associate's Colleges | 262 | 6% | 10 | 4% | 1,270,740 | 6% |
| Associate's Colleges | 1,000 | 23% | 38 | 15% | 5,808,423 | 29% |
| Special Focus Institutions | 1,350 | 31% | 85 | 34% | 884,217 | 4% |
| Tribal Colleges | 34 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 16,424 | 0.1% |
| TOTAL | 4324 | | 248 | | 20,063,809 | |

*2018 US Basic Carnegie Classification Data

Current NYS IHEs with University Title

Adelphi University

Alfred University

Clarkson University

Colgate University

Columbia University

Cornell University

Fordham University

Hofstra University

Long Island University

New York University

Niagara University

Pace University

Rockefeller University

St. Bonaventure University

St. John's University

St. Lawrence University

Syracuse University

University of Rochester

Yeshiva University

University at Albany

Binghamton University

University at Buffalo

Stony Brook University

SUNY Downstate Health
Sciences University

SUNY Upstate Medical
University

3 Possible Options to Consider

Option 1: Maintain the 3 doctoral program requirement

- But define/clarify doctoral program requirements as either:
 - Only Ph.D. degrees or
 - All doctoral programs, including professional and academic doctorates? (PhD, EdD, DNP, DPT, etc.)
- And define/clarify academic field:
 - Using HEGIS Areas/Codes

3 Possible Options to Consider

Option 2: At least one doctoral program is required

- But define doctoral program requirements as:
 - Only PhD programs?
 - All doctoral programs? including professional and academic doctorates (Ph.D., EdD, DNP, DPT, etc.)
- And require at least 3 graduate-level programs in at least 3 academic fields
 - Using HEGIS Areas/Codes

3 Possible Options to Consider

Option 3: Do not require any doctoral-level programs

- But require 5 graduate-level programs in 5 academic fields
- And define academic field using HEGIS Areas/Codes

Regulatory Terms/Definitions to Consider

Doctoral Program Considerations

- Only Ph.D. programs?
- All doctoral programs, including professional and academic doctorates? (Ph.D., Ed.D., D.N.P., D.P.T., etc.)

What constitutes an “academic field”?

- **General HEGIS Areas?**
 - **10 Academic Areas:** Agriculture, Biological Sciences, Business, Education, Engineering, Fine Arts, Health Professions, Humanities, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences.
- **Specific HEGIS Areas?**
 - For example, within Social Sciences area, consider Psychology (code 2001.00) as a different academic field than Public Administration (code 2102.00), even though they are both in the general Social Sciences taxonomy area?)

NYS Taxonomy of Academic Programs (HEGIS)

| HEGIS AREA | Sample Specific HEGIS Codes within Areas |
|---------------------|--|
| Agriculture | Agricultural and Farm Management (0110), Food Science and Technology (0113), Forestry (0114), Natural Resources Management (0115), etc. |
| Biological Sciences | Biology (0401), Pathology (0408), Biochemistry (0414), Marine Biology (0418), Neurosciences (0425), etc. |
| Business | Business & Commerce (0501), Accounting (0502), Marketing and Purchasing (0509), Labor and Industrial Relations (0516), etc. |
| Education | Elementary Education (0802), Higher Education (0805), Speech Correction (0815), Educational Statistics and Research (0824), Music Education (0832), Library Science (1601), etc. |
| Engineering | Architecture (0202), Chemical Engineering (0906), Mechanical Engineering (0910), Geological Engineering (0911), etc. |
| Fine Arts | Art History and Appreciation (1003), Dramatic Arts (1007), Music Composition and Theory (1004.1), Applied Design (1009), etc. |
| Health Professions | Nursing (1203), Dentistry (1204), Medicine (1206), Pharmacy (1211), Physical Therapy (1212), Public Health (1214), Sports and Exercise Studies (1299.3), etc. |
| Humanities | African Studies (0305), Foreign Languages (1101), English Literature (1502), Religious Studies (1510), etc. |
| Physical Sciences | Computer & Information Systems (0701), Mathematics (1701), Physics (1902), Organic Chemistry (1907), Astronomy (1911), Geology (1914), etc. |
| Social Sciences | Communications (0601), Law (1401), Psychology (2001), Public Administration (2102), Economics (2204), Sociology (2208), Urban Studies (2214), etc. |



Questions/Discussion?