Ohio | Board of Regents
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HEI Data Bulletin No. 9

Date: July 1, 2010

Issue: Revisions to post-baccalaureate award classifications

Files Affected: Degree Certificate Earned (DC) and Academic Program (AP) files

Recently, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has modified their post-baccalaureate degree classifications:

The first-professional certificate and first-professional degree classifications were eliminated. The post-master's certificate and the first-professional certificate were combined into a single classification – the post-master's certificate. The doctoral degree classification was divided into three categories: doctor's degree – professional practice, doctor's degree – research/scholarship, and doctor's degree – other.

The revised categories for degrees are outlined in the table below:

Current Award Categories (Baccalaureate and above)	Old Degree Code	New Award Categories (Baccalaureate and above)	New Degree Code
Bachelor's degree	05	Bachelor's degree	05
Post-baccalaureate certificate	06	Post-baccalaureate certificate	06
Master's degree	07	Master's degree	07
Post-master's certificate	08	Post-master's certificate	08
First-professional certificate	11		
Doctor's degree	09	Doctor's degree – research/scholarship	17
		Doctor's degree – professional practice	18
		Doctor's degree - other	19
First-professional degree	10	*Eliminated*	*N/A*

The new degree categories are defined as follows:

Doctor's degree - professional practice - A doctor's degree that is conferred upon completion of a program providing the knowledge and skills for the recognition, credential, or license required for professional practice. The degree is awarded after a period of study such that the total time to the degree, including both pre-professional and professional preparation, equals at least six full-time equivalent academic years. Some of these degrees were formerly classified as "first-professional" and may be included. Examples include: Audiology (Au.D); Chiropractic (D.C. or D.C.M.); Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.); Education (Ed.D); Educational Ministry (D.Ed.Min); Law (L.L.B. or J.D.); Ministry (D.Min); Medicine (M.D.); Nursing (D.N.P); Optometry (O.D.); Occupational Therapy (O.T.P); Osteopathic

Medicine (D.O); Pharmacy (Pharm.D.); Physical Therapy (D.P.T); Podiatry (D.P.M., Pod.D., D.P.); Psychology (Psy.D); or, Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.), and others, as designated by the awarding institution.

Doctor's degree - research/scholarship - A Ph.D. or other doctor's degree that requires advanced work beyond the master's level, including the preparation and defense of a dissertation based on original research, or the planning and execution of an original project demonstrating substantial artistic or scholarly achievement. Some examples of this type of degree may include Ed.D., D.M.A., D.B.A., D.Sc., D.A., or D.M, and others, as designated by the awarding institution.

Doctor's degree – other - A doctor's degree that does not meet the definition of a doctor's degree - research/scholarship or a doctor's degree - professional practice.

Master's degree - An award that requires the successful completion of a program of study of generally one or two full-time equivalent academic years of work beyond the bachelor's degree. Some of these degrees, such as those in Theology (M.Div., M.H.L./Rav) that were formerly classified as "first-professional", may require more than two full-time equivalent academic years of work.

In order to align HEI with the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), these changes regarding post-baccalaureate degree classification will be mandatory starting with the awards granted between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010 (Annual 2010 Degree Certificate Earned file). These changes will also affect the Academic Program file but not go into effect until Summer term 2010. As of Summer 2010, an institution will need to recode all doctor's and first-professional degree programs into the four graduate level categories listed below. That institution will also need to recode any first-professional certificates as post-master's certificates.

- Master's degree – '07'
- Doctor's degree - research/scholarship – '17'
- Doctor's degree - professional practice – '18'
- Doctor's degree – other – '19'