American education system

France		USA		
Ecole maternelle	Petite section Moyenne section Grande section	Nursery school		
Ecole primaire	CP (6 ans) CE1 CE2 CM1 CM2	Grade school (= or school)	grade (age 6) grade grade grade grade grade	
Collège	6ème 5ème 4ème 3ème	school (=high school)	grade grade grade (grade)	
Lycée	2de 1ère Terminale	(= Senior high school)	(grade) grade grade grade	
Université	Licence (3 ans) Master (2 ans) Doctorat	College / University		

Primary and Secondary School

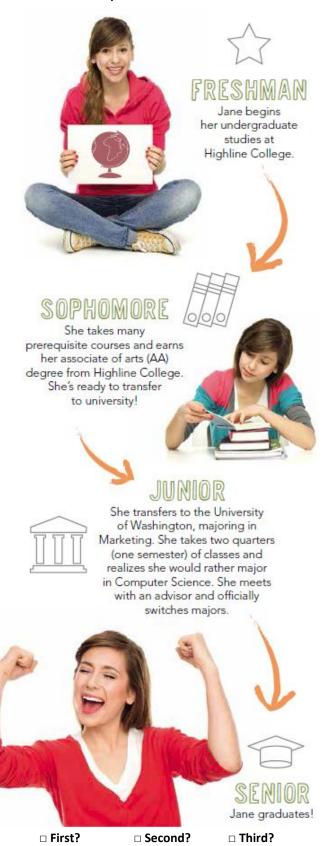
Prior to higher education, American students attend primary and secondary school for a combined total of 12 years. These years are referred to as the first through twelfth grades. Around age six, U.S. children begin primary school, which is most commonly called "elementary school." They attend five or six years and then go onto secondary school.

Secondary school consists of two programs: the first is "middle school" or "junior high school" and the second program is "high school." A diploma or certificate is awarded upon graduation from high school. After graduating high school (12th grade), U.S. students may go on to college or university. College or university study is known as "higher education."

Source: StudyUSA.com

2. Education – Higher education A READING - Studying in the U.S.A.

Which level does the picture above illustrate?



The U.S. Higher Education System: Levels of Study

First Level: Undergraduate

A student, who is attending a college or university and has not earned a bachelor's degree, is studying at the undergraduate level. It typically takes about four years to earn a bachelor's degree.

Your first two years of study you will generally be required to take a wide variety of classes in different subjects, commonly known as prerequisite courses: literature, science, the social sciences, the arts, history, and so forth. This is so you achieve a general knowledge, a foundation, of a variety of subjects prior to focusing on a specific field of study. Many students choose to study at a community college in order to complete the first two years of prerequisite courses. They will earn an Associate of Arts (AA) transfer degree and then transfer to a four-year university or college. A "major" is the specific field of study in which your degree is focused. For example, if someone's major is journalism, they will earn a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. A very unique characteristic of the American higher education system is that you can change your major multiple times if you choose. The American education system is very flexible. Keep in mind though that switching majors may result in more courses, which means more time and money.

Second Level: Graduate in Pursuit of a Master's Degree

Presently, a college or university graduate with a bachelor's degree may want to seriously think about graduate study in order to enter certain professions or advance their career. This degree is usually mandatory for higher-level positions in library science, engineering, behavioral health and education.

A graduate program is usually a division of a university or college. Graduate programs in pursuit of a master's degree typically take one to two years to complete, e.g. the MBA (Master of Business Administration).

The majority of a master's program is spent in classroom study and a graduate student must prepare a long research paper called a "master's thesis" or complete a "master's project."

Third Level: Graduate in Pursuit of a Doctorate Degree

Many graduate schools consider the attainment of a master's degree the first step towards earning a PhD (doctorate). But at other schools, students may prepare directly for a doctorate without also earning a master's degree. It may take three years or more to earn a PhD degree.

Source: StudyUSA.com