

## American education system

France		USA	
<b>Ecole maternelle</b>	<i>Petite section Moyenne section Grande section</i>	<b>Nursery school</b>	
<b>Ecole primaire</b>	<i>CP (6 ans) CE1 CE2 CM1 CM2</i>	<b>Grade school</b> (= ..... or ..... school)	..... grade (age 6) ..... grade ..... grade ..... grade
<b>Collège</b>	<i>6ème 5ème 4ème 3ème</i>	..... school (= ..... high school)	..... grade ..... grade ..... grade (..... grade)
<b>Lycée</b>	<i>2de 1ère Terminale</i>	..... school (= Senior high school)	(..... grade) ..... grade ..... grade ..... grade
<b>Université</b>	<i>Licence (3 ans) Master (2 ans) Doctorat</i>	<b>College / University</b>	..... year (1 <sup>st</sup> year) ..... year (2 <sup>nd</sup> year) ..... year (3 <sup>rd</sup> year) ..... year (4 <sup>th</sup> year) Master's degree Doctorate

### 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?

**FRESHMAN**  
 Jane begins her undergraduate studies at Highline College.

**SOPHOMORE**  
 She takes many prerequisite courses and earns her associate of arts (AA) degree from Highline College. She's ready to transfer to university!

**JUNIOR**  
 She transfers to the University of Washington, majoring in Marketing. She takes two quarters (one semester) of classes and realizes she would rather major in Computer Science. She meets with an advisor and officially switches majors.

**SENIOR**  
 Jane graduates!

- First?       Second?       Third?

**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

