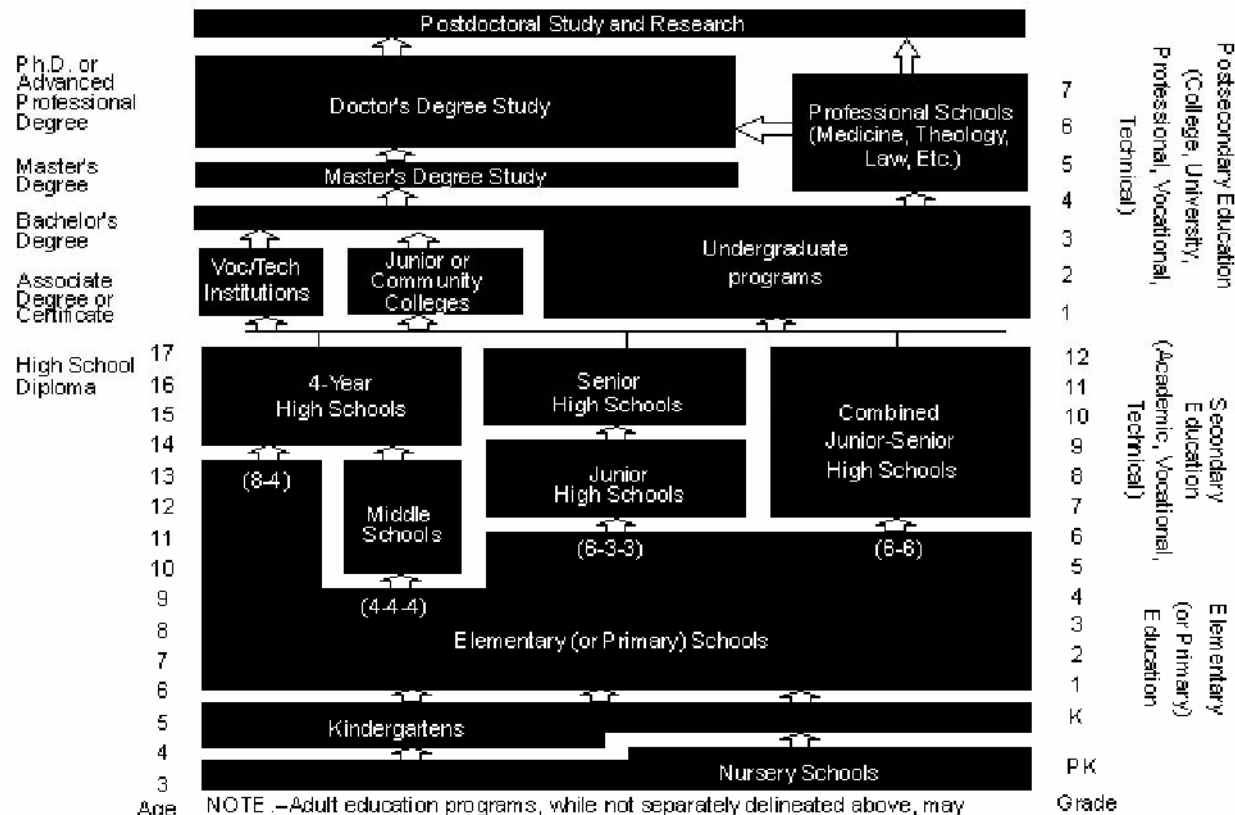


The Education System of the United States 9.

*Workshop on the International Recognition
of Degrees and Diplomas in Croatia*

Zagreb, September 20-22, 2005

Map of the U.S. Education System

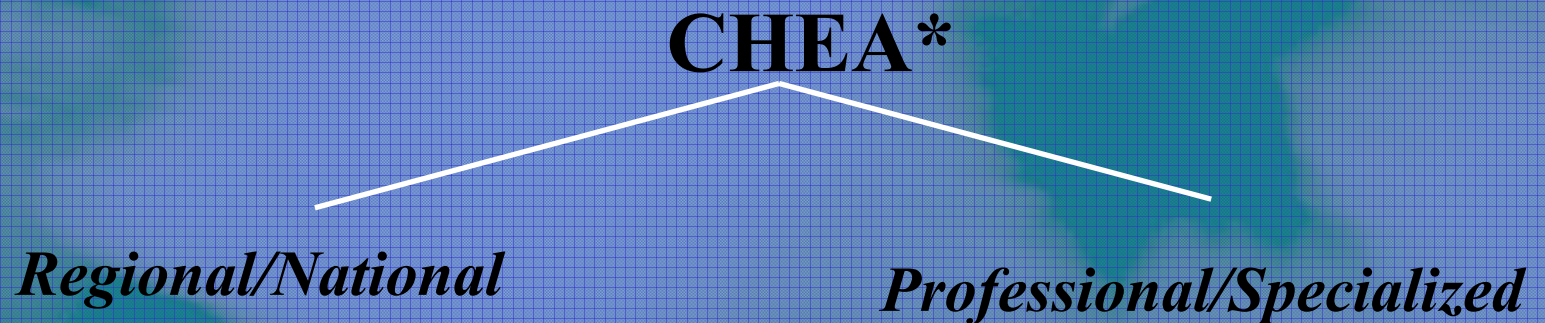


NOTE --Adult education programs, while not separately delineated above, may provide instruction at the elementary, secondary, or higher education level. Chart reflects typical patterns of progression rather than all possible variations. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.

Characteristics influencing degree recognition:

- **absence of a national ministry responsible for education**
- **absence of standardized starting levels and graduation levels**
- **large differences in quality among higher education institutions**
- **various grading/credit systems in use**

Accreditation in the United States



*** Council for Higher Education Accreditation,
www.chea.org**

Credit system:

High School:

1 credit or unit is usually given for every subject studied one 50-minute period per day, 5 times per week during 1 school year (approx. 36 weeks/180 classroom hours)

In some cases, 1 credit or unit is given for every subject studied every day for one semester.

Credit system:

Higher Education:

Semester calendar

1 **semester** credit = 1 contact hour per week for a semester of 15 to 16 weeks.

120 semester credits usually required for bachelor's degree (30 per year)

academic year: fall/spring semesters + optional summer semester

Credit system:

Higher Education:

Quarter calendar

1 **quarter hour** credit = 1 contact hour per week for a quarter of 10 to 12 weeks.

180 quarter credits usually required for bachelor's degree (45 per year)

academic year: fall/winter/spring quarters + optional summer quarter

Credit system:

NB:

- it is assumed that 2 hours of preparation are necessary for every credit hour
- 2 to 3 hours of laboratory or practical work = 1 credit

Grading system (most common):

Grade	Grade/Honor Points
A = excellent/superior	4.0
B = very good/above average	3.0
C = good/average	2.0
D = below average/poor	1.0
F = failure	0.0

Useful Websites

- www.chea.org
- www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ous/international/usnei/edlite-index.html