

## Selected Canadian Terminology

**Bachelor's Degree** – First university degree awarded on completion of a 3 or 4-year undergraduate curriculum that includes a major, or concentration, and electives.

**Certificate** – A qualification awarded on completion of a 1-year post-secondary program.

**Diploma** – A qualification awarded on completion of a 2 or 3-year post-secondary program.

**Earned Doctorate (Ph.D.)** – Highest academic degree, awarded on the basis of graduate-level coursework, examinations, original research and dissertation.

**First Professional Degree** – The first professional degree in a given field (such as Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Dentistry) is usually awarded on completion of professional study. This title alone may not be sufficient to allow the bearer to practice in Canada, as additional licensing requirements must be met.

**Grade Point Average (GPA)** – A weighted mathematical average of the quality of academic work, as indicated by grades given for all individual courses. This is determined by multiplying the credits per course by the quality points for the grade for each course, totaling them up and dividing by the total number of credits.

**Graduate** – Study or program undertaken after bachelor's degree, usually in preparation for master's degree or Ph.D. (doctorate).

**Major** – An area of academic concentration or specialization at the post-secondary level.

**Master's Degree** – A post-bachelor's degree in a specific field, awarded on the basis of completion of coursework (usually 1-3 years of study) and often a written thesis or project.

**Non-recognized Institution** – An academic institution that is not recognized in Canada by a provincial government for the purpose of awarding degrees or diplomas.

**Postgraduate Certificate** – A qualification awarded following a one or two year program following a diploma or bachelor's degree.

**Post-Secondary** – An institution or program of study at a college or university level that requires the completion of secondary study prior to admission. This level of study is called "post-secondary".

**Professional Study** – Study and training to become a practitioner of a specific profession, such as medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, optometry, etc.

**Recognized Institution** – An academic institution that is recognized in Canada by a provincial government for the purpose of awarding degrees.

**Semester Credit** – Defined in Canada as 50 minutes of lecture and classroom study and approximately 2 hours of personal work/study per week, over the course of 15 weeks (or one semester), equivalent to a total of 750 minutes of classroom study per semester.

Individual courses are assigned a set number of credits on the basis of the required hours of lecture and classroom study. The average annual credit load carried by an undergraduate student in Canada is 32-34 semester credits. In Canada, a three-year bachelor's degree usually requires 90-102 semester credits and four years bachelor's degree usually requires 120-136 semester credits.

**Secondary School Diploma** – Awarded on completion of the secondary level of education in a Canadian province (usually 12 years, 11 years in Québec)

**Undergraduate** – Study or program completed in connection with first degree or bachelor's degree.

## ADDITIONAL REPORTS

If you ever need additional copies of your report, you may order them at any time, online, for a nominal charge. You may also send a request for additional copies to us by mail, or print the required form from our website.

## UPGRADE YOUR REPORT

You can upgrade your Document-by-Document evaluation report to a more detailed Course-by-Course report. The fee is \$150.00 per application. Visit our website for details.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions regarding your evaluation report, you may contact WES at the address on this brochure.



CANADA

WORLD EDUCATION SERVICES  
45 Charles Street East, Suite 700  
Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1S2

Fax: 416-972-9004

E-mail: [canada@wes.org](mailto:canada@wes.org)

[www.wes.org/ca](http://www.wes.org/ca)

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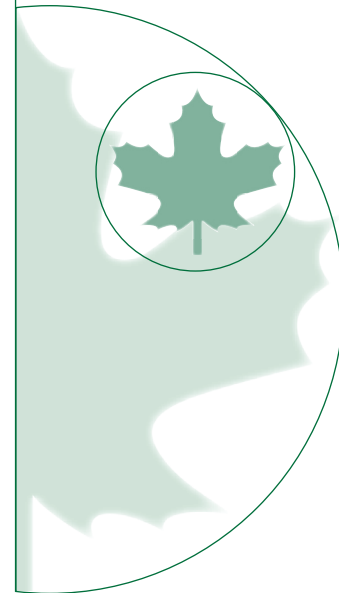
# UNDERSTANDING AND USING YOUR CREDENTIAL EVALUATION REPORT

Your Passport  
to Education  
and  
Employment

Ontario

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# Understanding and Using Your WES Evaluation Report

Your education is your most important asset. Your educational credentials demonstrate your accomplishments and reflect your potential for further education and/or employment opportunities. The time and expense that you have invested in your education will pay off only when your academic credentials are understood and recognized.

The purpose of a WES evaluation is to interpret your qualifications in Canadian educational terms and equivalencies, so that they are understood when you present them to pursue education or seek employment in Canada.

WES evaluations are welcomed and accepted in Canada by many employers, academic institutions, and occupational regulatory bodies. Because our evaluations reflect WES' proven expertise and are based on solid research and rigorous analysis, they help those who use them to make informed decisions.

This brochure explains our evaluation reports and terminology, and provides guidance on how you can use your WES report when applying for a job or to attend a college or university.

*We thank you for using  
WES and wish you all the  
best in achieving your  
educational and professional  
goals in Canada*

[www.wes.org/ca](http://www.wes.org/ca)



## DOCUMENTATION PROCESS

WES verifies all documents presented for evaluation. WES evaluates only documents which represent the completion of a formal academic program. WES does not evaluate non-formal education or professional experience.

## THE EVALUATION PROCESS

Credential evaluation consists of weighing all relevant factors and determining an equivalency that, in our best judgment, reflects the meaning of your credentials in Canadian terms. The evaluation report expresses the opinion and expertise of WES and is based on extensive research, experience, and the most comprehensive reference materials and up-to-date information available to our expert evaluators.

## THE CREDENTIAL ANALYSIS

The credential analysis describes each credential in standard Canadian educational terminology:

- Admission requirements refers to the *minimum* academic requirements for admission to a program
- Program length refers to the *minimum* number of years required to complete the program
- The equivalency summary indicates a comparable credential, or study at a comparable level, in a comparable field in the Canadian system of education. (Please see "Selected Canadian Educational Terms" in this pamphlet for a description of Canadian credentials and/or their requirements)

## COURSE-BY-COURSE EVALUATION

### GRADING AND GPA

The grade equivalents listed on the Course-By-Course analysis take into account the differences between grading systems in Canada and in your country of education. The GPA reflects a weighted mathematical average of your academic performance as indicated by your grades.

## COURSES AND CREDIT ALLOCATION

If you have received a Course-By-Course evaluation, your report lists all subjects completed at the post-secondary level and provides a Canadian semester credit and grade equivalent for each one. The number of credits corresponds to the normal full-time load carried by a student enrolled in a similar program in Canada. When the number of credits completed abroad varies from a Canadian standard, WES converts them into Canadian semester credit equivalents, as appropriate.

## USING YOUR EVALUATION REPORT

You can use your evaluation report when applying for jobs, applying for colleges and universities, applying for licensure with professions, entering apprenticeship training programs, applying for some types of visas to enter Canada, and to obtain a TN visa to enter the U.S..

We recommend that you indicate the results of your WES evaluation in the cover letter you send with your application for employment. You should also include this information in your resume. Feel free to refer your prospective employer to WES for further information and let them know your reference number.

Similarly, share your evaluation report with all educational institutions to which you are seeking admission, especially when your intention is to negotiate credit transfer or exemptions from specific courses.

For more information about how to use your WES evaluation report, check our website:

For employment purposes:

[www.wes.org/ca/evaluations/employment.asp](http://www.wes.org/ca/evaluations/employment.asp)

For education purposes:

[www.wes.org/ca/evaluations/education.asp](http://www.wes.org/ca/evaluations/education.asp)