

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

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Academic credential

A document provided as evidence of learning based on completion of a recognized programme of study.

- **Degree / diploma**
An academic credential awarded by a university or other authorized academic institution for successful completion of a programme of academic study.
- **Associate Degree**
An academic degree, approved by the Higher Education Commission, Pakistan, awarded upon completion of a course of study usually lasting two years.
- **Bachelor's or first degree**
An undergraduate degree or a first professional degree.
- **Master's degree**
A graduate degree offered by universities that normally follows an undergraduate degree.
- **Doctoral degree**
A graduate degree that is one level higher than a master's degree.
- **Advanced diploma**
A one-year specialised graduate programme of study. AKU offers: Advanced Diploma in Education; Advanced Diploma in Health Professions Education; Advanced Diploma in Human Development.
- **Diploma**
An undergraduate programme of study that precedes an undergraduate degree programme. AKU offers: Diploma in General Nursing; Diploma in Dental Hygiene.
- **Certificate**
A short programme of study offered by the Institute for Educational Development.

Academic record

A file containing academic information about each student at an educational institution. It may include information such as a student's programme of study, transfer credits awarded, names of credit and non-credit courses completed, course grades and grade point average, repeated courses, prior learning assessment, disciplinary actions, and appeals, as well as information about work terms / industrial placement, thesis and research.

Academic regalia

The cap and gown worn during Convocation and other formal and ceremonial occasions.

- AKU's academic regalia are called the *Jamiapoash*. The *Jamiapoash* is comprised of a *Khila'at* ("robe of honour" in Arabic) and a *Sirpoash* ("headwear" in Persian).
- The basic colours of the University's academic regalia are green and white.

Accumulation of credits

Credits from a lower level qualification, such as advanced diploma, accumulated towards the award of a qualification at a higher level, provided the candidate meets other necessary requirements for this purpose.

Admission

The formal acceptance of a candidate for admission to enter a programme of study.

Advanced standing

Recognition provided to a student, upon admission, for credit for previous courses taken in a related area of study that may enable entry into a higher level of the programme.

ASDH

Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene

Blended learning

Learning in a combination of modes. Often used more specifically to refer to courses that use a combination of traditional face-to-face teaching and distance learning techniques on-line.

BScN

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Certifying examination

Refers to the formal examination at the end of a year or course qualifying a candidate for promotion to the next year of the programme or the award of the final qualification.

Comprehensive examination

A specific type of examination that must be completed by students in certain disciplines and courses of study. The form and general requirements for the exam varies according to the academic unit but typically tests knowledge of the student's subject area and two or more related areas, and may be used to determine a candidate's eligibility to continue his or her course of study.

Confidential information

Recorded personal information about an identifiable individual; information which is subject to physician / patient privilege; information which was supplied in confidence, either explicitly or implicitly; information relating to the business of the University or a third party and including (but not limited to) trade secrets and scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, where disclosure could result in some harm to either the university or a third party.

Convocation

The ceremony at which students, who have successfully completed an approved programme of study, and whose programme completion has been endorsed by Academic Council, receive their respective diploma / degree parchments.

Course

A single unit of study offered by an educational institution that is part of a programme leading to a credential. The offering must:

- Have a defined start and end date.
- Have an approved credit weight.
- Assign a final grade through an approved grading / assessment process.

Course participant

Term used by the Institute for Educational Development to identify individuals pursuing a Certificate, Advanced Diploma, Master of Education or a PhD (Education). Also see "Student".

Credit

A unit used to express the value of a course or other training activity in relation to the total requirements for a degree or diploma usually measured in hours of study or achievement of threshold standard or both.

Dean

Unless otherwise specified, refers to the head of the University academic unit or entity.

Dissertation

See "Thesis".

Elective course

For the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Institute for Educational Development and Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations: A course that may be selected as part of a programme of study and is not a compulsory part of the programme.

Enrichment / bridging programme

A course or set of courses designed specifically to provide a person who already possesses certain qualifications with the additional or upgrading skills and knowledge required for admission into a specific programme

Enrolment

The process of formally assigning and recording a student's course registrations into a programme of study.

Entrance requirement

A set of criteria stipulating education and / or training or experience required for eligibility to enter into an educational programme. May include minimum levels of achievement and/or scores on examinations.

Full-time student

A full-time student is defined as a student whose main commitment is to studies for the purpose of obtaining an undergraduate diploma / degree or graduate degree / advanced diploma. Full-time students are normally limited in the number of hours in which they can be employed.

Grade

A representation of a student's achievement in a course, expressed on a letter and / or numeric scale or in a percentage.

Grade point

A unit of measure constituting a numerical equivalent of a letter grade, serving to calculate grade point averages.

Grade point average

A measure of a student's academic performance over a group of courses, obtained by dividing the sum of grade points earned by the student, by the total number of attempted credits in the same group of courses.

Graduand

A person who has finished the requirements of their programme of study but has not yet been awarded his / her diploma / degree at convocation. (Once the individual has received his / her diploma, s / he is considered a 'graduate'.

Graduation

See "Convocation".

Graduate studies

Studies undertaken following an undergraduate degree (most often a master's or doctoral degree).

MA

Master of Arts

MBBS

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

MBioeth

Master of Bioethics

MEd

Master of Education

MHPE

Master of Health Professions Education

MMed

Master of Medicine

MPhil

Master of Philosophy

MSc

Master of Science

MScN

Master of Science in Nursing

Optional course

See "Elective course".

Parchment

The document attesting to the awarding of an academic credential upon successful completion of a programme of study requirements.

Part-time student

A student is one who does not meet the requirements of a full-time student as defined above is considered to be a part-time student. There is no restriction with respect to time spent on gainful employment.

PGME

Postgraduate Medical Education

- Pakistan offers a one-year internship programme for new medical graduates; residency programmes in 33 disciplines; and fellowship programmes in 31 disciplines.
- In East Africa, residency programmes are offered in nine disciplines leading to a Master of Medicine degree.

PhD

Doctor of Philosophy

Prerequisite

A course or other requirement that must be satisfactorily completed before enrolment will be permitted into an advanced or succeeding course.

Postgraduate

See "Graduate studies".

Programme

An integrated group of courses or learning activities in a particular field of study.

Programme of study

An institutionally defined set of courses / curriculum which leads to an academic credential.

Qualifying examination

See "Certifying examination".

Record

Any record of information however recorded, whether by electronic means or in print form that is capable of being produced from a machine-readable record under the control of the University by means of computer hardware and software or any other information storage equipment and technical expertise normally used by the institution.

Required course

A course that all students following a particular programme of studies must take and successfully complete.

Semester

A division of the academic year. Semester lengths are defined by the Higher Education Commission in Pakistan and the Commission for University Education in Kenya. Other divisions may be defined by the academic programme.

Student

A candidate for admission to an academic programme becomes a student of the University once the admission processes have been completed and the candidate formally accepts the University's offer of admission. A person remains a student until they complete the requirements of the programme or withdraws, voluntarily or as a result of University action, from the programme.

- At AKU, for the purposes of some University policies, PGME Interns, Residents and Fellows are deemed to be students of the University.

Study visa

A document issued by immigration authorities permitting individuals who are not citizens to study in the country in which the programme of study is offered.

Syllabus

A document which provides a description of the essential features of a programme of study and its courses, including objectives, subject content, teaching and assessment strategies.

Term

See “Semester”.

Thesis

A substantial piece of written work (sometimes called a dissertation) prepared by a candidate for a master’s or doctoral degree.

Transcript

The official document that identifies courses taken (title and course number), credits and grades achieved, and credentials or qualifications earned.

Transfer of credit

The acceptance or recognition of credits by a host institution on the basis of successful completion of courses at another educational institution within or outside the jurisdiction in order to minimize the duplication of learning.

- At AKU, refers both to credits earned by the candidate prior to admission in a programme at AKU and those earned during the stipulated period of study, provided the candidate meets other necessary requirements for this purpose.

Undergraduate studies

The first level of studies toward a diploma or bachelor’s degree.

Visiting student

An individual attending a postsecondary institution by special agreement.

- Auditors and special students, who may not be enrolled in an AKU programme of study, are considered visiting students.

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