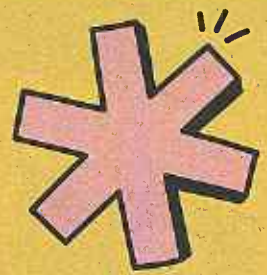


# OPTIONS!



**What's the difference between a certificate and a certification?** A certificate is earned through a college or university, while a certification is earned by an association, company or organization.

**TAKES UP TO 1 YEAR AFTER HS**

## Occupation Skills Award

Can be completed with nine to 14 hours of credit (one year max) in a specific technical field to complete. Stack multiple skills awards to grow and advance.

**TAKES UP TO 1 YEAR AFTER HS**

## Certificate of Proficiency (or Certificate of Competency)

Three to seven months of training in a specific occupation to earn a certificate and enter the workforce. You must complete a 30-credit program, a 24-credit career specialty and get at least six credits of general education.

**TAKES UP TO 1 YEAR AFTER HS**

## Certificate of Completion

Typically requires one year to complete and is related to a specific job or career niche.

**TAKES UP TO 3.5 YEARS AFTER HS**

## Dual-credit in High School

Shortens length of time in college. Students can earn college credits equivalent to one or more semesters of college coursework. Can be used towards a two- or four-year degree. Cuts college tuition costs. To be eligible, students must take Texas Success Initiative tests and meet college prerequisite requirements.

**TAKES 2 YEARS AFTER HS**

## Associate Degree

Can be completed in two years for a full-time student, or three to four years for a part-time student. The typical community college tuition in DFW is \$3,626 for in-state students.

**It takes 16 years** of higher education and training after high school to become a surgeon.

-American Board of Physician Specialties

**TAKES 6-8 YEARS AFTER HS**

## Master's Degree

Can only be obtained after earning a bachelor's degree. Can be used to climb the ladder and earn higher wages and the average graduate program in Texas costs \$8,172/year for in-state student tuition.

Source: [collegetuitioncompare.com](http://collegetuitioncompare.com), 2023.

**TAKES 7-8 YEARS AFTER HS**

## Doctoral Degree

What you'll need if considering a career as a doctor, lawyer, professor, historian, statistician, anthropologist and other similar job titles. Often requires costly degrees that lead to lucrative occupations. The average cost of a doctorate degree at a public college in the U.S. is \$105,900.

Source: [educationdata.org](http://educationdata.org)

**TAKES 9-16 YEARS AFTER HS**

**Medical Residency:** Add three to seven years after medical school.

**Medical Fellowship:** Add one to three years after residency.

**Board Certification:** Add four years after residency.

**LONG**

**LONGER**

**LONGEST**