

ATTACHMENT B ADHE DEFINITION OF DEGREES

Master's Degree

The master's degree will be awarded to students who complete a minimum of 30 semester credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree that includes 50 percent graduate-only semester hours in the field of study. The curriculum must require demonstrated mastery of skills and knowledge against specified performance standards in a specific area or discipline.

Specialist Degree

The specialist degree will be awarded to students who complete a minimum of 30 graduate-only semester credit hours beyond the master's degree. The curriculum must require demonstrated mastery of skills and knowledge against specified performance standards in a specific area or discipline. The degree does not meet the academic requirements of a doctoral degree.

Doctoral Degree

The doctoral degree will be awarded to students who complete a minimum of 72 graduate semester credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree. The program of study includes 42 graduate-only semester hours beyond the master's degree. The curriculum must require demonstrated mastery of skills and knowledge against specified performance standards in a specific area or discipline. Program requirements must balance credit hours for required coursework, research, and dissertation preparation.

<http://www.adhe.edu/institutions/academic-affairs/academic-program-proposal-and-review>