

# Maritime University Certificate and Diploma Framework<sup>1</sup>

		Undergraduate Certificates & Diplomas	Graduate Certificates & Diplomas			
		Undergraduate	Post-Baccalaureate	Graduate		
Definition	a.	<b>Undergraduate certificates and diplomas</b> are university programs of study recognizing a specific grouping or subset of <u>undergraduate-level credited courses</u> from one or more disciplines that form a coherent program of study. These programs lead to the <u>acquisition</u> of specific knowledge, skills, competencies or professional expertise that may meet the requirements of <u>the labour market or outside accrediting bodies</u> .	a.	<b>Post-baccalaureate certificates and diplomas</b> are university programs of study recognizing a specific grouping or subset of <u>undergraduate-level credited courses</u> from one or more disciplines that form a coherent program of study. These programs lead to the <u>acquisition</u> of specific knowledge, skills, competencies or professional expertise that may meet the requirements of <u>graduate-level study, the labour market, or outside accrediting bodies</u> .	a.	<b>Graduate certificates and diplomas</b> are university programs of study recognizing a specific grouping or subset of <u>graduate-level credited courses</u> from one or more disciplines that form a coherent program of study. These programs lead to the <u>acquisition and overall deepening</u> of specific knowledge, skills, competencies or professional expertise that may meet requirements of <u>more advanced graduate-level study, the labour market, or outside accrediting bodies</u> .
	b.	<b>Undergraduate and post-baccalaureate certificates and diplomas</b> can be based in a particular discipline or be interdisciplinary in nature.		b.	<b>Graduate certificates and diplomas</b> are more commonly based in a particular discipline, but can be interdisciplinary in nature.	
Characteristics and Parameters	c.	Admission to <b>undergraduate certificates and diplomas</b> <u>requires completion of a high school diploma</u> or equivalent prior to enrolling; it may also require some previous post-secondary study at the undergraduate level.	c.	Admission to <b>post-baccalaureate certificates and diplomas</b> <u>requires completion of an undergraduate degree</u> or equivalent prior to enrolling. The prior degree could be in a cognate discipline or not, depending on the goals of the program.	c.	Admission to <b>graduate certificates and diplomas</b> <u>requires completion of an undergraduate degree</u> or equivalent prior to enrolling, often in a cognate discipline; in some instances, a significant amount of professional experience may be accepted in lieu of this. Entrance could also require admission to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
	d.	<b>Undergraduate certificates</b> can take the following forms:  i. <u>Stand-alone credentials</u> . ii. <u>Embedded programs</u> completed in conjunction with an undergraduate degree.  <b>Undergraduate diplomas</b> will normally be <u>stand-alone credentials</u> .	d.	<b>Post-baccalaureate certificates and diplomas</b> take the form of <u>stand-alone credentials</u> .	d.	<b>Graduate certificates and diplomas</b> can take the following forms:  i. <u>Stand-alone credentials</u> . ii. <u>Embedded programs</u> completed in conjunction with a graduate degree.
	e.	<b>Undergraduate and post-baccalaureate certificates</b> are <u>15 to 30 credits</u> .  f. <b>Undergraduate and post-baccalaureate diplomas</b> are <u>30 to 60 credits</u> .		e.	<b>Graduate certificates</b> are <u>9 to 15 credits</u> .  f. <b>Graduate diplomas</b> are <u>15 to 30 credits</u> .	

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g. <b>Undergraduate certificates and diplomas</b> typically provide <u>a foundational level of critical understanding and some conceptual sophistication and specialized knowledge</u> .	g. <b>Post-baccalaureate certificates and diplomas</b> may provide <u>a foundational level of critical understanding and some conceptual sophistication and specialized knowledge</u> , or they may build on the knowledge and competencies acquired during undergraduate study.	g. <b>Graduate certificates and diplomas</b> build on the knowledge and competencies acquired during undergraduate study and provide <u>a more advanced level of critical understanding, greater conceptual sophistication, and more specialized knowledge and intellectual autonomy than undergraduate and post-baccalaureate certificates and diplomas</u> .
<p>h. <b>Undergraduate and post-baccalaureate certificates and diplomas</b> can be oriented toward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Introducing</u> the student to a particular discipline or disciplines through lower-level undergraduate courses, i.e., 1<sup>st</sup>- and 2<sup>nd</sup>-year courses.</li> <li>• <u>Acquiring intermediate-level knowledge</u> through upper-level undergraduate courses, i.e., 3<sup>rd</sup>- and 4<sup>th</sup>-year courses.</li> <li>• <u>Developing</u> skills and competencies associated with a particular discipline or disciplines.</li> </ul>		<p>h. <b>Graduate certificates and diplomas</b> can be oriented toward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Introducing</u> the student to a particular discipline or disciplines through graduate-level courses, but to a greater depth or at a more accelerated pace of learning than in an undergraduate or post-baccalaureate certificate or diploma program.</li> <li>• <u>Acquiring and overall deepening of advanced-level</u> knowledge of subject matter content related to a discipline or disciplines.</li> <li>• <u>Developing advanced</u> skills and competencies associated with a particular discipline or disciplines.</li> </ul>
<p>• <u>Developing</u> transdisciplinary skills and competencies applicable to <u>higher-level studies</u> or the work force (i.e., critical thinking, oral and written communication skills, problem solving, etc.).</p>	<p>• <u>Reinforcing</u> transdisciplinary skills and competencies applicable to <u>graduate-level studies</u> or the work force (i.e., critical thinking, oral and written communication skills, problem solving, etc.).</p>	<p>• <u>Enhancing</u> transdisciplinary skills and competencies applicable to <u>more advanced graduate-level studies</u> or the work force (i.e., critical thinking, oral and written communication skills, problem solving, etc.).</p>

<sup>1</sup> The parameters outlined within this framework apply to all credit-based university certificates and diplomas. The MPHEC recognizes that non-credit certificate programs are also offered at Maritime universities. **It is important for universities to clearly distinguish between for-credit and non-credit certificates when advertising any certificate program** to current and prospective students given the common terminology of ‘certificate.’ For credit-based programs, universities are strongly encouraged to indicate in their program materials that the certificate is aligned with the MPHEC’s *Maritime University Certificate and Diploma Framework*. **For non-credit certificates, universities are required to clearly indicate to current and prospective students that the program is not credit-based.**