

UCLA Extension

COMPARISON: UCLA EXTENSION CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS VS. MASTER'S PROGRAMS (U.S.)

	UCLA Extension Certificate Programs	Most Master's Degree Programs*
Entry Flexibility	Four entry dates per year, every three months.	Normally one entry date per year.
Application Deadline	Two months before program begins.	Normally one year before program begins.
Academic Requirements	TOEFL or IELTS. College transcripts	TOEFL or IELTS. Undergraduate degree and transcripts. Examinations: GRE, GMAT, etc.
Duration	Most are one year.	Most are two years.
Selection	All who qualify are admitted. No wait lists.	Admission limits. Wait lists. Competitive.
Cost	Course fees are same for international and local students.	Course fees are higher for international students than for local students.
Internships	Available for most programs during the program.	Available for most programs during the program.
OPT	Available on program completion.	Available on program completion.
Program Focus	Academic program emphasizing career-centered, practical workplace application.	Academic program emphasizing theory, research, and some application.
Classmates	Mostly working professionals.	Mostly full-time students.
Course Schedule	Evenings.	Daytime.
Instructors	Highly regarded industry professionals and UCLA faculty.	University faculty.
University Recognition	Coursework and instructors approved by UCLA Academic Senate and UCLA academic departments. Post-baccalaureate level.	Coursework and instructors approved by University Academic Senate and academic departments. Master's level.
Documentation	Certificate with University Seal. Official transcript.	Degree with University seal. Official transcript.
Transfer credit	Some courses transfer to master's by decision of receiving institution.	Some courses transfer to doctorate by decision of receiving institution.

* Degree programs are not standardized in the U.S. Information will differ by institution. The information on master's degrees is general. It represents what would take place at most institutions.