

Education

Current definitions

Degree

The qualification attained at the completion of a university degree course. Degrees are currently structured in two cycles:

- 1st-level degrees (three-year course) (Ministerial Decree no. 509/1999 and Ministerial Decree no. 270/2004) accessed after upper secondary school;
- 2nd-level specialisation degrees (*lauree specialistiche/magistrali* – two-year course) (Ministerial Decree no. 509/1999 and Ministerial Decree no. 270/2004) accessed after a 1st-level degree;
- single-cycle 2nd-level specialisation degrees (Ministerial Decree no. 509/1999 and Ministerial Decree no. 270/2004) accessed after upper secondary school;

These courses run alongside the traditional (pre-reform) degree courses lasting 4-5 years, which lead to a qualification equivalent to 2nd-level degrees.

Diploma of upper secondary education

The qualification gained at the end of an upper secondary school course lasting four or five years and after passing the final secondary school State examination.

Enrollment rate

The relationship, expressed as a percentage, between the number of students enrolled in the level of education considered and the resident population in the corresponding theoretical age class. For primary school level the theoretical age considered is of 6-10 years, 11-13 years for lower secondary school, 14-18 for upper secondary school and 19-25 for university-level education.

Entry rate to tertiary education

The relationship between the university new entrants and upper secondary graduates in the previous school year ratio.

Lower secondary leaving certificate

The Qualification obtained after passing the final Scuola Media State examination. From the 2004-05 school year, following the implementation of the reform of educational cycles, the final primary school examination was abolished (successful pupils received the primary school leaving certificate).

School Section

Pre-primary class.

School Unit

Within a single school, the classes in other locations, the groups of classes that follow others type of education and the evening classes are considered separate "school units".

University new entrants

Students enrolled for the first time in a university course in any Italian university. This category includes students with Italian or equivalent foreign upper secondary school graduation, students transferred to an Italian university from a foreign one. Students who dropped out in previous years

and subsequently re-enrolled in the same or in another university are therefore excluded, and come under the category of students enrolled in their first year.

Vocational training qualification and Diploma of master of art certificate

The Qualification obtained after a three-year upper secondary school course (in a Vocational or Arts institute) which does not give access to university education.