

All UC students must fulfill an English language requirement measured by an international test.

## Degree Requirements

All academic programs at UC are composed of a core curriculum consisting of a systematic and rigorous sequence of courses in the student's major, and a complementary curriculum which allows the student course options within or outside his/her area of study.

In the complementary curriculum, the University offers a Curriculum of General Education. This is a combination of courses allowing the student to complete his/her education in the fields of science, humanities, ethics, etc. This method structures a well-educated individual and at the same time allows him/her to reach an ethical formation within the Christian principles that inspire this University. These courses are taken outside the student's selected major.

This format offers the student the possibility of obtaining an additional Certificate (or Minor) in an area outside his or her academic title or degree. The purposes of this alternative are to broaden the student's education in an area outside of the major, to facilitate the student's approach to knowledge through different methods, and to widen his or her cultural education in an organized and systematic manner.

Some examples of these 58 programs are: Studies in Architectural Theory; Drama; Organization and Management of Human Resources; Chilean Economy; Social Science;

Foundations of Psychology; Aesthetics and History of Art; European History; Mathematics and Statistics; Theology for the Layperson; Latin American Studies; European Studies; Asian Studies, among others.

All students of our University must fulfill a foreign language requirement, demonstrating full written comprehension and a command of the English language before receiving their diploma or degree. The purposes of this requirement are to give the student access to foreign bibliography and the capacity to use this language— an indispensable tool for communication and integration in our present world, as a channel to other sources of information.

### **ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF ADMISSION TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES**

All students who have decided on their major may apply through the ordinary or special admission process for any professional title or academic degree awarded by the University.

For those students who are uncertain about their course of studies, the University offers the possibility of clarifying vocational options which, at the same time, permits the admission to the University through alternative means. These alternatives are the Bachillerato of Science

and the Bachillerato of Social Science and Arts (equivalent to the U.S. associate degree), each requiring two years of study. They focus on the fields of basic sciences and social sciences and arts, respectively. Once the student has obtained his or her Bachillerato Degree he or she may continue in studies leading to the Licentiate and Professional Degrees. Through this program, to which the student applies in the same way as ordinary admission to the regular majors, one may have access to all of the majors offered by the University, depending upon the openings available.

### **UC CONFERS THE FOLLOWING DEGREES:**

Bachillerato (equivalent to an Associate degree in the US), Licentiate (or Bachelor's in the US), Master's and Doctoral degrees. The honorary degrees of "Doctor Scientiae et Honoris Causa" and "Doctor Honoris Causa" are conferred to eminencies in various fields.

All professional and academic undergraduate degrees at the UC require eight to twelve semesters of study (except the Bachillerato Degree which lasts two years, and Medicine which requires seven years), knowledge of a foreign language, at least eight general courses chosen from areas outside the student's major, and a final examination after full course work

## Undergraduate Programs have received accreditation by the CNAP (Comisión Nacional de Acreditación de Pregrado)

has been completed. Undergraduate programs are offered only on a full-time basis.

The Bachillerato Degree is awarded to students who have passed the basic education study plan, including ethical and cultural disciplines. This allows the student to continue higher studies with a broad background, understanding, and integral view of mankind, culture, and society.

The Licentiate is the undergraduate academic degree that requires at least a total of four years of study in a specific discipline. According to 1990 Chilean legislation, this degree is awarded before the professional title, in every area of study offered by universities. The Licentiate is a prerequisite for admission to graduate studies. **Three new general licentiate programs in Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Arts and Humanities, and Social Sciences are in progress.**

There is no minimum or maximum number of semesters required for graduate degrees, since the course work varies widely and students generally attend programs on a part-time basis. Nevertheless, the approximate duration is four semesters, including the thesis for the master's, and from three to five years for the doctorate, equivalent to a Ph.D.

The Master's is the academic degree awarded either for the completion of a research-oriented program of studies which requires a thesis and

may lead to the **Doctorate**, or the completion of a specialized professional program of studies in a specific area of the undergraduate degree.

One undergraduate credit hour officially corresponds to one hour of study per week, including class hours and individual preparation. A full load is composed of 50 credits. Minimum degree requirements in credit hours vary substantially but, in general, a Bachillerato degree requires 200 credits; a Licentiate, 400-450 credits; a M.D., 760 credits without thesis; a Master's, 135 credits plus thesis; a Doctorate, 350 credits including a thesis.

The Professional Title is awarded after the Licentiate, requiring a load of about 450-550 credits. This degree is awarded to graduates who have followed a study plan whose level and subject matter provide them with a general and scientific education appropriate for professional employment.

### **POST- DEGREE PROFESSIONAL TITLES:**

- Graduate Certificates: Specializations that have 100 to 150 credit loads. The admission prerequisite is a university level Professional Title.
- Diplomas: Obtained from continuing education courses specializing in a wide range of topics, that last six months to one year of partial dedication.



The UC Doctorate (Ph.D.) Programs have been accredited by the CONAP (Comisión Nacional de Acreditación de Postgrado).