

# Carnegie Classification Code Definitions\*

After reviewing the Carnegie Classification's strengths and weaknesses as well as its uses, the Carnegie Foundation undertook a thorough reassessment of its classification system. With the 2005 revision, the single classification system was replaced by a set of multiple, parallel classifications. Due to space limitation, the *Higher Education Directory*<sup>®</sup> only lists the original classification framework—now called the basic classification—which has been substantially revised. These new codes are listed below:

**Associate's Colleges:** Includes institutions where all degrees are at the associate's level, or where bachelor's degrees account for less than 10 percent of all undergraduate degrees. Excludes institutions eligible for classification as Tribal Colleges or Special Focus Institutions.

Assoc/Pub-R-S: Associate's — Public Rural-serving Small  
Assoc/Pub-R-M: Associate's — Public Rural-serving Medium  
Assoc/Pub-R-L: Associate's — Public Rural-serving Large  
Assoc/Pub-S-SC: Associate's — Public Suburban-serving Single Campus  
Assoc/Pub-S-MC: Associate's — Public Suburban-serving Multicampus  
Assoc/Pub-U-SC: Associate's — Public Urban-serving Single Campus  
Assoc/Pub-U-MC: Associate's — Public Urban-serving Multicampus  
Assoc/Pub-Spec: Associate's — Public Special Use  
Assoc/PrivNFP: Associate's — Private Not-for-profit  
Assoc/PrivFP: Associate's — Private For-profit  
Assoc/Pub2in4: Associate's — Public 2-year Colleges under Universities  
Assoc/Pub4: Associate's — Public 4-year, Primarily Associate's  
Assoc/PrivNFP4: Associate's — Private Not-for-profit 4-year, Primarily Associate's  
Assoc/PrivFP4: Associate's — Private For-profit 4-year, Primarily Associate's

**Doctorate-granting Universities.** Includes institutions that award at least 20 doctoral degrees per year (excluding doctoral-level degrees that qualify recipients for entry into professional practice, such as the JD, MD, PharmD, DPT, etc.). Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges.

RU/VH: Research Universities (very high research activity)  
RU/H: Research Universities (high research activity)  
DRU: Doctoral/Research Universities

**Master's Colleges and Universities.** Includes institutions that award at least 50 master's degrees per year. Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges.

Master's/L: Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs)  
Master's/M: Master's Colleges and Universities (medium programs)  
Master's/S: Master's Colleges and Universities (smaller programs)

**Baccalaureate Colleges.** Includes institutions where baccalaureate degrees represent at least 10 percent of all undergraduate degrees and that award fewer than 50 master's degrees or fewer

than 20 doctoral degrees per year. Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges.

Bac/A&S: Baccalaureate Colleges — Arts & Sciences  
Bac/Diverse: Baccalaureate Colleges — Diverse Fields  
Bac/Assoc: Baccalaureate/Associate's Colleges

**Special Focus Institutions.** Institutions awarding baccalaureate or higher-level degrees where a high concentration of degrees is in a single field or set of related fields. Excludes Tribal Colleges.

Spec/Faith: Theological seminaries, Bible colleges, and other faith-related institutions  
Spec/Medical: Medical schools and medical centers  
Spec/Health: Other health profession schools  
Spec/Engg: Schools of engineering  
Spec/Tech: Other technology-related schools  
Spec/Bus: Schools of business and management  
Spec/Arts: Schools of art, music, and design  
Spec/Law: Schools of law  
Spec/Other: Other special-focus institutions

**Tribal Colleges.** Colleges and universities that are members of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, as identified in IPEDS Institutional Characteristics.

Tribal: Tribal Colleges

\*All data provided by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. For more detailed information on the revised Carnegie Codes, please visit [www.carnegiefoundation.org/classifications/](http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/classifications/)