



# FRENCH/AMERICAN DEGREE EQUIVALENCIES

*The following section pertains to individuals with a degree from France*

## *Credential Evaluation*

If you hold a degree from a foreign country and wish to further your studies in the USA, you may be required to submit a credential evaluation to the admissions office at U.S. colleges and universities so that they can accurately evaluate your educational background.

There is **no single authority in the USA in charge of the recognition of foreign degrees and qualifications**. International agreements, educational institutions and the labor market recognize the following authorities for recognition matters:

1. **The school or higher education institution**, for individuals who wish to pursue further studies in the USA and must present qualifications and degrees from abroad.
2. **The employer**, for individuals who wish to work in the USA and must present qualifications and degrees from abroad.
3. **The licensing board**, for individuals who wish to practice certain professions in the USA and must present qualifications and degrees from a broad.



Many of these authorities turn to experts in a **credential evaluation service** whose role is to **analyze** the foreign credentials and then issue **recommendations** on how these qualifications from abroad compare to those issued by U.S. education institutions, the labor market or from a professional organization.



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There are two national associations:

**NACES** (National Association of Credential Evaluation Services) and **AICE** (Association of International Credential Evaluators) whose members must adhere to a specific code of conduct and whose services are often used by federal and state organizations and educational institutions for such **credential evaluations**.

**Credit evaluations are not free.** The cost and turnaround time may vary accordingly to the number of documents and complexity of the analysis.

NACES member agencies	AICE member agencies
<a href="#">A2ZEvaluations</a>	<a href="#">Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute</a>
<a href="#">Center for Applied Research, Evaluations &amp; Education</a>	<a href="#">American Education Research Corporation</a>
<a href="#">e-Val Reports</a>	<a href="#">Foreign Credential Evaluations</a>
<a href="#">Educational Credential Evaluators</a>	<a href="#">Globe Language Services</a>
<a href="#">Educational Perspectives</a>	<a href="#">International Evaluation Services</a>
<a href="#">Educational Records Evaluation Service</a>	<a href="#">Lisano International</a>
<a href="#">Evaluation Service</a>	<a href="#">SDR Educational Consultants</a>
<a href="#">Foreign Academic Credential Service</a>	
<a href="#">Foundation for International Services</a>	
<a href="#">Global Credential Evaluators</a>	
<a href="#">Global Services Associates</a>	
<a href="#">International Academic Credential Evaluators</a>	
<a href="#">International Consultants of Delaware</a>	
<a href="#">International Education Research Foundation</a>	
<a href="#">Josef Silny &amp; Associates</a>	
<a href="#">SpanTran Evaluation Services</a>	
<a href="#">Transcript Research</a>	
<a href="#">World Education Services</a>	



Additionally, the **International Education Services division of AACRAO** (American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions) also provides foreign education evaluations.

Campus France USA does not endorse or recommend any specific credential evaluation service



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*The following section pertains to individuals with a degree from the United States*

## *Equivalencies of American diplomas*

The **ENIC-NARIC France** is the French information center for the academic and professional recognition of qualifications:

- It issues comparability statement for foreign qualifications
- It provides information on the procedure for obtaining recognition of French qualifications abroad
- It provides information on the procedures to follow in order to work in a regulated profession

**ENIC-NARIC**, "European Network of Information Centres – National Academic Recognition Information Centres". In France, the legal principle of equivalence does not exist. You can obtain a certificate of recognition of your study level. This certificate helps make your course more transparent and can be shown to employers, authorities organizing competitive examinations and training institutions, to assist you in following your chosen path.

The recognition criteria used by the French ENIC-NARIC are the following (based on the Lisbon recognition convention – LRC):



<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	Recognition of the qualification within the education system of the awarding country
	Status of the institution in the awarding country
	<b>Assessment Components</b>
<b>Formal Indicators</b>	Bilateral or multilateral agreement
	Position of the qualification in a national and/or international framework
	Official length of study
	ECTS/credits
	Admission requirements
	Program requirements (knowledge, competencies, learning)
<b>Quality assurance</b>	Professional and academic rights
	Existence of an independent and external assessment of the program and the institution

Source: CIEP

**All the applications to get a certificate of recognition should be submitted online.** Please check the website for more details: [www.ciep.fr/enic-naricfr/index.php](http://www.ciep.fr/enic-naricfr/index.php)

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## *French ENIC-NARIC comparability of US diplomas*



Diplomas	Length of study	Credits	Specificity	French ENIC-NARIC comparison
High school diploma	Secondary school leaving certificate (12 years of primary and secondary schooling)	-	SAT-AP	IV-4
Associate degree	2 years	Usually 60 (semester credits)	Credits can be transferred to a bachelor program	III-5
Bachelor's degree	4 years	Usually 120 (semester credits)	-	II
First professional degrees	Depending on the specialization program, usually up to 6 years	Usually 180 (semester credits), depending on the program	"Doctor" in the diploma title but not PhD	I-7
Master	Usually 2 years after bachelor's degree	Usually 60 (semester credits), depending on the program	First degree of graduate cycle	I-7
PhD	Research program, no specific duration	-	Independent research and defense of thesis	I-8

Source: CIEP