

Advantages of the American System

The fundamental characteristics of the American education system are its great flexibility and the fact that it places the student as the true protagonist of their learning.

We can point out the following points as keys to the system:

- You can decide upon the degree you want to apply for at the beginning, or after the first two years have passed. Although the students are within a branch of knowledge, the exact choice of the major may come later, when they have already seen different general areas of study, and therefore have a clearer vision of what really interests them and what they want to specialize in.
- The student has a great decision-making capacity in the configuration of their study plan, since there is a wide option in the choice of courses from the beginning of their studies, and thus they can design their own curriculum.
- There is a requirement to take a series of basic general education courses during the first years. This creates a very broad common knowledge base for all students.
- Continuous assessment is standard and is based on the acquisition of skills with less emphasis put on memorization. Written exams do not count for more than 20% compared to presentations or group work. Consistency and daily effort are highly valued.
- There is great leeway to change a major of study. The fact of having a common base regarding courses at the beginning of the degrees makes a different choice of major enormously flexible, even if studies have already started, or even if they change university.
- At the end of the first two years of the degree, students have already acquired a degree, the Associate Degree. If students continue until the fourth year and finish their studies, they obtain a Bachelor's Degree.
- Support programs are applied to students who have identified learning challenges from the first moment without such support being considered abnormal but rather an obligation of any educational center.
- Internships are fundamental: they are within the academic program and are evaluated. They are compulsory in different courses and thus generate a direct connection with the professional world.