

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—Nicaragua



**NAFSA**

Association of  
International Educators

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NAFSA: Association of International Educators promotes the exchange of students and scholars to and from the United States. The association sets standards of good practice and provides professional education and training that strengthen institutional programs and services related to international education and exchange. NAFSA provides a forum for discussion of issues and a network for sharing information as it seeks to increase awareness of and support for international education in higher education, in government, and in the community.

In 1948, NAFSA pioneered the concept of providing professional services for postsecondary exchange students. Early efforts to enhance living and learning environments for exchange students have blossomed into today's active association of accomplished professionals whose numbers continue to grow worldwide.

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# Instructions for Using the *Online Guide to Educational Systems Around the World*

Susan Whipple, Editor

December 2008

These documents are updates to those in the 1999 publication *A Guide to Educational Systems Around the World* (which was an update to *The Handbook on the Placement of Foreign Graduate Students*, published in 1990 and colloquially known as the "Graduate Handbook.")

**It is important to note that these documents do not replace either of the earlier publications, which should be used for credentials issued prior to 1999, the period those publications cover.**

Readers familiar with the original version of *A Guide to Educational Systems Around the World* will note that these updates use the same format:

1. Each of these publications provides lists of credentials and other data that can be used both for undergraduate and graduate admissions.
2. "Advice for admissions officers" is intentionally not provided. We have attempted to avoid all types of subjective interpretation, relying instead on objective data. Users of these updates should use the information provided in conjunction with other resources to determine their own placement recommendations and possibility of transfer credit. Questions about credentials can be posted on the Admission and Credential Evaluation discussion forum on the Recruitment, Admissions, and Preparation Knowledge Community Web site:  
[http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge\\_community\\_network.sec/recruitment\\_admissions/admissions\\_and\\_credential/forums](http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge_community_network.sec/recruitment_admissions/admissions_and_credential/forums).

Please note that these updates should be supplemented by additional written materials that describe complete foreign educational systems, including data on specific institutions, and by professional training in the theory and practice of credential evaluation. Many of these resources are available from NAFSA, either as printed publications or on-line. The need for institution support for budgetary resources and training for undergraduate and graduate admissions personnel remains important, regardless of the increased availability of resources on the Web.

These publications were compiled by many authors using a standardized template and style. Although minor variations among entries do occur, the basic guidelines are explained as follows:

## Educational Ladder

1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2  
1 - 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |  
A B B

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The year or half-year at which a credential is awarded is the point at which the corresponding credential letter is placed. In the example above, credential A is awarded after the 9th year of education. Note that the corresponding letter is placed directly below the number 9.

All *normal* possibilities of the total number of years of education that a credential might require are indicated on the ladder. This occurs for credential B, in which the credential can be awarded after either 12 or 13 total years of education. An explanation is provided in the description of the credential whenever a letter appears on the ladder more than once. There are a few cases when this multiple-listing style was not used; in these cases, there are explanatory comments.

An arrow (→) is used after a credential letter in cases where no maximum length of study for a particular program is specified, or where the study time is open-ended. For example, a doctor of philosophy degree program may require a minimum of three years of enrollment. The corresponding credential letter with an arrow will appear under the minimum number of total years of education required to earn the Ph.D.

## Explanations About Documents

Credentials are divided into two categories: secondary and postsecondary. The decision to include the credential under one or the other category is not a subjective one—a credential is determined to be either secondary or postsecondary according to its designation by the country of origin, regardless of how individual institutions might perceive the level (and recommend transfer credit).

Numerical endnotes, placed directly after the complete list of credentials, are used when a lengthy explanation about a credential is necessary.

## Foreign Terms and Words

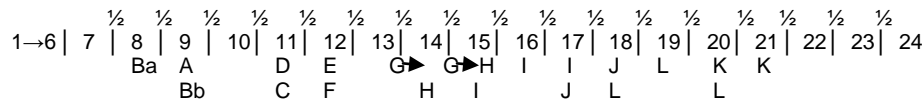
Foreign terms are used whenever possible, and are translated literally, in most cases. Literal translations are used to avoid subjectivity. We have attempted to be consistent with translations across languages, though readers may notice some differences between countries because of preferences indicated by the submitters. Credential evaluators and admissions personnel should always rely on official foreign language documents, using translations only as guides.

## Grading Information

Only the most common grading scales used in each country are listed. Evaluators understand that variations in grading are common and that one should always consult the grading information that may be provided on official transcripts. Rather than making grade equivalency statements, the submitter(s) of the update provided information regarding grading practices within the countries.

# NICARAGUA

## YEARS OF EDUCATION →



## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

- A *Diploma de Conclusión de Estudios del Ciclo Básico* (Diploma of Completion of Basic Cycle Studies): Three-year program after *Educación Primaria* (Primary Education). This certificate represents completion of nine years of General Basic Compulsory Education. Gives access to upper-secondary education.
- B *Técnico Básico* (Basic Technician): Two- or three-year post-primary technical program. This program offers two tracks, one offering preparation for entering the workforce only, and the other one leading to further study.
  - Ba) Two-year vocational-technical program leading only to employment; this program does not equate to completion of lower-secondary education.
  - Bb) Three-year vocational training program leading to employment or the next level of technical education at the upper-secondary level of *Técnico Medio* (Middle level Technician).
- C *Título de Bachiller en Ciencias y Letras* (Title of Secondary Graduate in Sciences and Letters). This certificate represents completion of two years of *Ciclo Diversificado* (Diversified Cycle). Gives access to higher education. Admission requires credential **A**.
- D *Enfermero Técnico Medio* (Middle Level Nursing Technician) also called *Enfermero Básico* (Basic Nurse). This certificate represents completion of two years of vocational training at the upper-secondary level. It leads to employment or to the next level of technical education in nursing of *Enfermero Técnico Superior* / Higher Nursing Technician. Admission requires credential **A** or credential **Bb** in nursing.
- E *Título de Técnico Medio* (Middle Level Technician) or *Título de Bachiller Técnico* (Title of Secondary Technical Graduate). This certificate represents completion of three years of upper-secondary vocational training. Gives access to higher education or employment. Admission requires credential **A** or credential **Bb** in the same field of study.
- F *Maestro de Educación Primaria* (Primary School Teacher). Training for primary school teachers consists of a three-year program at the upper-secondary level for studies at an *Escuela Normal* (Normal School). This certificate leads to employment in the primary school system or alternatively, to apply for higher education in allied programs of study. Admission requires credential **A**.

### Postsecondary

- G Diploma of Non-university level studies: *Título de Técnico Superior* (Title of Higher Technician): Programs offered at *Escuelas Técnicas* (Technical Schools). This

certificate represents completion of two and one-half to three years of study. It leads to university level programs in certain fields of study that last for two to three years. Examples include *Título de Técnico Superior en Administración de Empresas* (Title of Higher Technician in Business Administration) and *Título de Técnico Superior en Enfermería* (Title of Higher Technician in Nursing). These schools also offer terminal intermediate level degree programs of two and one-half or three years which qualify students for employment. Admission requires credential **C** or credential **E** in the same field of study.

- H *Título de Enfermero Profesional* (Title of Professional Nurse): Offered until 1986 when it was phased out. Represents completion of three years of vocational preparation in nursing. Recognized by some universities and may be a requirement for some two-year Licentiate programs in Nursing. Admission requires credential **C** or **E**.
- I *Licenciatura* (Licentiate): Requires 4 to 5 years of study awarding a *Título de Licenciado en\_* (Title of Licentiate in\_). In addition to completion of coursework, a thesis is normally required of all students, although for some fields of study a professional seminar and additional courses can take the place of a thesis. Admission requires credential **C**, **E**.  
Examples include *Título de Licenciado Administración de Empresas* (Title of Licentiate in Business Administration), *Título de Licenciada en Psicología* (Title of Licentiate in Psychology), *Título de Licenciado en Economía* (Title of Licentiate in Economics), *Título de Licenciado en Enfermería* (Title of Licentiate in Nursing).  
Ia) *Título de Licenciado en Enfermería* (Title of Licentiate in Nursing) can also be achieved after 2 years of studies beyond credentials **G** and **H** in some universities.  
Ib) *Título de Profesor de Educación Media* (Title of Teacher of Secondary Studies) is a four-year licentiate qualifying recipients to teach at the secondary level. Admission requires credential **F**.
- J *Título de Doctor en Medicina y Cirugía* (Title of Doctor of Medicine and Surgery): Requires 6 years. It leads to professional practice and further education. Admission requires credential **C** or **E**.
- K *Título de Especialista en\_* (Title of Specialist in\_): Three-year program after *Título de Doctor en Medicina y Cirugía*. Represents completion of a specialization in medicine. Admission requires credential **J**.
- L *Grado Académico de Maestría* (Academic Degree of Master): Two-year program after a qualifying first degree. Admission requires credential **I**. Admission requires credential **I** or **J**.

## GRADING SCALE

### Secondary

Numerical	Description	Translation	U.S. Equivalence
90-100	Sobresaliente	Outstanding	4.00/A
80-89	Muy Bueno	Very Good	3.00/B
60-69	Bueno	Good	2.00/C
0-59	Reprobado	Fail	0.00/F

### **Postsecondary Education**

Numerical	Description	Translation	U.S. Equivalence
90-100	Sobresaliente	Outstanding	4.00/A
80-89	Muy Bueno	Very Good	3.00/B
70-79	Bueno	Good	2.00/C
0-69	Reprobado	Fail	0.00/F

### **SECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY**

Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deportes (Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports)

Apartado Postal 108

Complejo Civil, Modulo J

Managua, Nicaragua

Tel: 505 (2) 651 451 / 650 038

Fax: 505 (2) 653 547 / 650 434

<http://www.mecd.gob.ni>

### **POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY**

Consejo Nacional de Universidades (National Council of Universities)

Los Robles, 110 Carretera A.

Managua, Nicaragua

Tel: 505 (2) 785 072 / 781 053

Fax: 505 (2) 783 385

<http://www.cnu.edu.ni>

### **RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **Published:**

Feagles, Shelley M., editor. *A Guide to Educational Systems Around the World*. Washington, DC: NAFSA, 1999.

#### **On-Line:**

Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos Sistema Educativos Nacionales – Nicaragua  
/ Organization of Ibero-American States – Nicaragua

<http://www.oei.es/quipu/nicaragua/index.html>

UNESCO- World Academic Database:

<http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabase/index.html>

*World Data Education*. 6<sup>th</sup> edition 2006/07. Compiled by UNESCO-IBE:

<http://www.ibe.unesco.org>

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