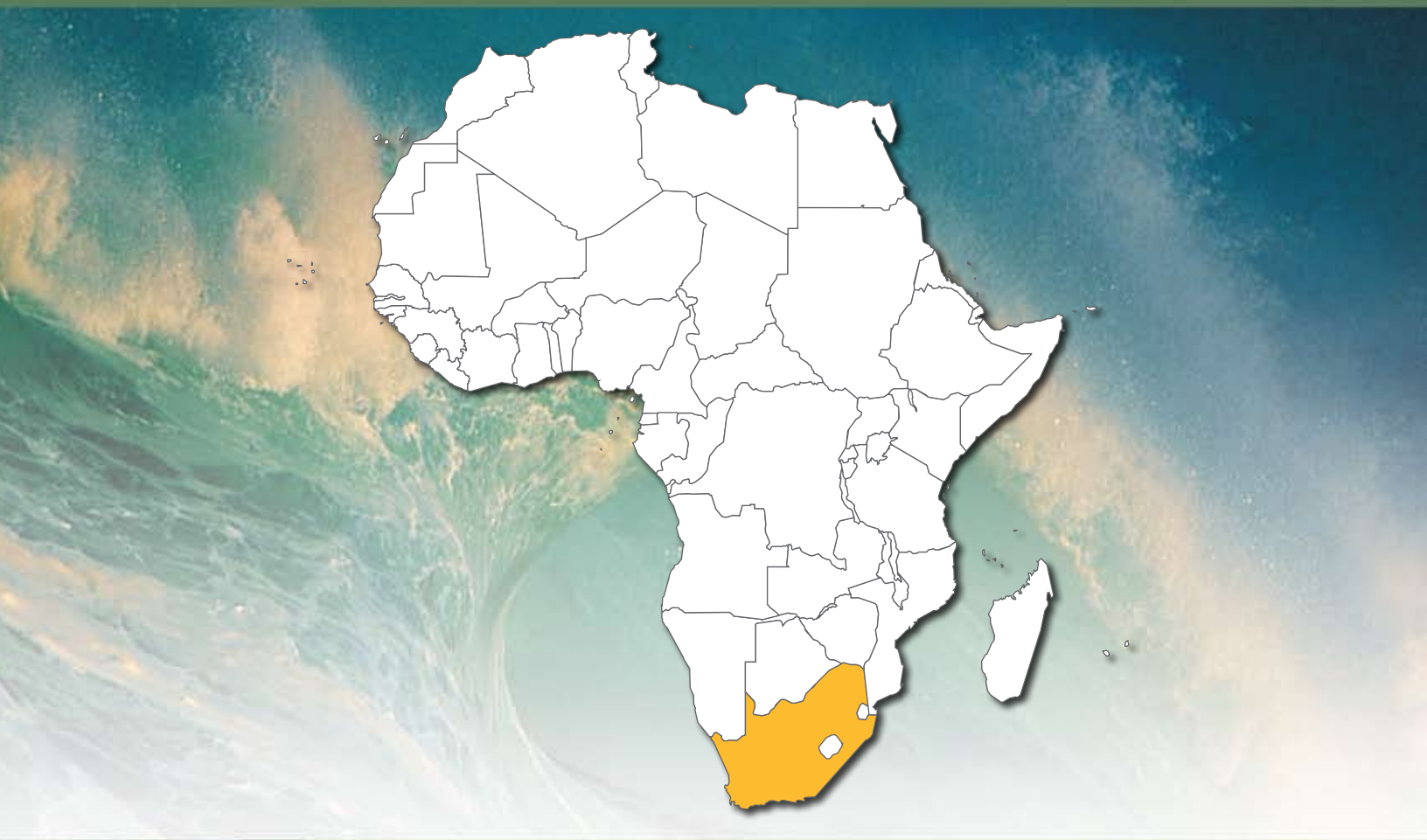


Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—South Africa



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Tamalene Conlen,
Velani Witthöft
September 2008

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About NAFSA

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.

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

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.

SOUTH AFRICA

YEARS OF EDUCATION

1-6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13		14		15		16		17		18		19		20		21		22		23		24		
				A		B		E		G		K		L		O		X		d		d		n		n												
				C		F		H		N		P		R		Y		e		e		f		f														
				D				I		M		Q		S		Z		f		f																		
								J						T		a		g		k																		
														U		b		h		l																		
														V		c		i																				
														W		d		k																				
																e																						
																f																						
																j																						

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A** End of Compulsory Education (NQF Level 1 or ABET Level 4)
- B** Standard Eight Certificate: awarded after 10 years of compulsory education (last awarded in mid-2000s, when compulsory education was changed to 9 years)
- C** Nursing Assistant: one year of non-academic in-service training requiring credential B (no longer exists)
- D** National N1 Certificate: awarded upon completion of one year vocational training requiring Standard 8 (grade 10) (some programs may only require Standard 7)
- E** National N2 Certificate: awarded upon completion of one year vocational training requiring credential D
- F** National Intermediate Certificate: awarded upon completion of four N2 subjects together with courses in Business Afrikaans and Business English
- G** National N3 Certificate: awarded upon completion of one year vocational training requiring credential E. Students who have also passed English and Afrikaans are considered to be equivalent to Senior Certificate level
- H** Senior Certificate: twelve years of formal academic school; qualifies holders to be admitted to Technikons or University of Technology programs (last awarded in 2007)
- I** Senior Certificate with Matriculation Endorsement: twelve years of formal academic school; qualifies holders for traditional university degree programs (last awarded in 2007)
- J** National Senior Certificate [NSC] (from 2008 and onwards): replaces qualifications H and I. Must have 130 credits to qualify for award

Postsecondary

- K** National N4 Certificate: awarded upon completion of one year of vocational training requiring credential G or H
- L** National N5 Certificate: awarded upon completion of one year of vocational training requiring credential K
- M** National Certificate: one year of technical education (or practice-oriented) study at a technikon, university of technology or comprehensive university* requiring credential H

- N** Certificate in Agriculture: one year study at an agricultural college requiring credential H
- O** National N6 Certificate: awarded upon completion of one year of vocational training requiring credential L
- P** Higher Certificate in Agriculture: two years of study at an agricultural college requiring credential H
- Q** Enrolled Nurse: two academic years of nursing training requiring credential H
- R** National N Diploma: completion of credential N followed by two years supervised experimental learning in the industry in a corresponding field
- S** National Diploma: three years of technical education (or practice-oriented) study at a technikon, university of technology or comprehensive university requiring credential H or M
- T** General Nursing Diploma (before 1986): three years of nursing training at a nursing college requiring credential H
- U** Diploma in Agriculture: three years of study at an agricultural college requiring credential H
- V** Diploma in Education: three years teacher training at a college of education requiring credential H
- W** Bachelor's degree (General Arts, Science, Commerce and Law [BA in Law or BCL) until 1998]): three years undergraduate study at a university requiring credential I or J
- X** Baccalaureus Technologiae (Technological Baccalaureate), replacing the Higher Diploma since the mid-90s: four year applied degree study at a technikon, university of technology or comprehensive university, usually including one year of industrial placement, requiring credential H or J
- Y** Higher Diploma in Education: one year advanced teacher training at a college of education requiring credential V or W
- Z** Further Diploma in Education: one year specialized teacher training at a college of education requiring credential V
- a** Post-basic Specialized Nursing Diploma (before 1986): one year of further training requiring T
- b** Nursing Diploma (post 1986): four academic years of training for a nurse (general, psychiatric and community health nursing science) and midwife leading to registration requiring credential H
- c** Bachelor's degree (e.g. Engineering, Fine Art, Forestry, Music, Quantity Surveying and Education): four years undergraduate study at a university requiring credential I or J
- d** Post-Graduate University Diploma: one year study following credential W, c or i
- e** Honours Bachelor's degree: one year of study in one subject requiring credential W, c, i
- f** Master of Business Administration degree: one year study in business administration requiring credential Q, c, i, or e
- g** Post-basic Advanced Specialized Nursing Diploma: one year further specialized nursing training (Nursing Education or Nursing Administration) requiring credential a or b
- h** Magister Technologiae (Technological Master), replacing the Master's Diploma in Technology since the mid-90s: one year applied study requiring credential X
- i** Bachelor's degree (professional field): five (e.g. Dentistry, Architecture, Law (since 1998/99 - LLB) to five and one-half years (e.g. Veterinary Medicine) requiring credential I or J

- j** Second Bachelor's degree: one year full-time or two years part-time study in a professional field such as Law (LLB up to 1998/99), Education (Bed) or Divinity (BD); requiring credential W
- k** Master's degree: one to two years study (includes a dissertation); requiring credential c, e, i, or j
- l** Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB): six years study in medicine and surgery, including a one-year internship, requiring credential I or J
- m** Doctor Technologiae (Technological Doctor) [replaced Laureatus in Technology in the mid-nineties]: two years applied study, requiring credential H or J
- n** Doctor of Philosophy: at least two years study (research and thesis); requiring f or k
- o** Doctorate: signifies extensive independent research and publications

*During the early to mid-2000's the Technikons were phased out and became universities of technology or merged with traditional universities (now known as comprehensive universities).

GRADING INFORMATION

Secondary

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Pre-2008</u>			<u>Post-2008</u>	
75-100	80-100 Achievement	A	Distinction		Level 7: Outstanding
75-101	70-79 Achievement	B	Very Good		Level 6: Meritorious
75-102	60-69 Achievement	C	Good		Level 5: Substantial
75-103	50-59 Achievement	D	Average		Level 4: Moderate
75-104	40-49 Achievement	E	Pass (Higher Grade*)		Level 3: Adequate
75-105	30-39 Elementary Achievement		Pass (Standard Grade)		Level 2:
75-106	0-32 Achieved – Fail	G, H	Failure		Level 1: Not

*33% is considered passed at the Higher Grade for the second language.

- The minimum pass mark for all N courses is 40%.

Higher Education

The grading system varies among universities and specific scales can be obtained from individual institutions. The following are the most common:

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Class/Division</u>
75-107	1st Class
75-108	2nd Class Division 1
75-109	2nd Class Division 2

75-110	3rd Class	
75-111	0-49	Fail
75-112		
75-113	Percentage	Description
75-114	Distinction	
75-115	Pass	
75-116	0-49	Fail

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODIES

Certification Council for Technikon Education (SERTEC) (oversees agricultural colleges also), P.O. Box 74037, Lynnwood Ridge, Pretoria, 0040. Tel: 27 12 348 1406. Fax: 27 12 3486796

Committee for Technikon Principals (CTP), Private Bag X680, Pretoria, 0001. Tel: 27 12 326 1065, Fax 27 12 325 7387. Email: ctpwhyte@techpta.ac.za

Committee of Technical College Principals (CTCP), P.O. Box 8481, Pretoria, 0001. Tel: 27 12 323 0267. Fax: 27 12 323 0299.

Democratic Nursing Association of South Africa (Denosa), P.O. Box 1280, Pretoria, 0001. Tel: 27 12 343 21315/6/7. Fax: 27 12 344 0750. Email: denosahq@cis.co.za

Department of Education, P.O. Box 895, Pretoria, 0001. Tel: 27 12 312 5999. Fax: 27 12 321 6770. Email: info@educ.pgq.gov.za

Registrar for Private Higher Education, Department of Education, Private Bag X8955, Pretoria. Tel: 27 12 312 5253. Fax: 27 12 328 6029. Email: beezhhold@educ.pgq.gov.za

South African Vice Chancellor's Association (SAUVCA) (statutorily known as Committee of University Principals), P.O. Box 27392, Sunnyside, Pretoria, 0132. Tel: 27 12 429 3015. Fax: 27 12 429 3071. Email kotecp@alpha.unisa.ac.za

South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), Private Bag X6, Waterkloof 0145. Tel: 27 12 346 5553. Fax: 27 12 346 5812. Email gunthrop@mweb.co.za

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Committee on Teacher Education Policy (COTEP, 1996). *Norms and Standards for Teacher Education*. Pretoria: COTEP.

Department of Education, 1997. *Formal Technikon College Instructional Programs, Report 151 (97/01)*. Pretoria: Department of Education.

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Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). 1997. *Guide to Higher Education in South Africa.* Pretoria: Halfway House, Southern Directories.

South African Universities' Vice-Chancellors' Association (SAUVCA), 1998. "Update of Information for International Association of Universities." Circular 230/98 to Vice-Chancel.

Internet Sources

Ministry of Education: www.education.pwv.gov.za

South African Qualifications Authority: www.saqa.org.za

UNESCO – World Academic Database: www.unesco.org/iau/educza.html

UK NARIC: International Comparisons: www.internationalcomparisons.org.uk

Education in South Africa: www.southafrica.info

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September 2008