

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Taiwan



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by
Peggy Bell Hendrickson
August 2008

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.

Notice of Liability

The information in these documents is distributed on an "As is" basis, without warranty. While every precaution has been taken in the preparation of each document, neither the submitter(s) nor NAFSA shall have any liability to any persons nor entity with respect to any loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the information contained in any of these documents. Please note that while NAFSA periodically verified the Web site links included in these e-Publications, NAFSA cannot guarantee that every link will be current at the time of download.

Acceptable Use Guidelines

Electronic resources are provided for the benefit of the international education community. However, commercial use, systematic or excessive downloading, or electronic redistribution of these publications are all expressly prohibited.

© 2009 NAFSA: Association of International Educators. All rights reserved.

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.

TAIWAN, REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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		H		L	O	S	U	U	V			
						C		I		M	P	T		W	W	W		
						D		J		N	Q			X	X	X	X	X
						E		K			R					Y	Y	Y
						F										Z	Z	Z
						G												

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A** Transcript and Certificate of Graduation awarded after completion of 9 years of Elementary and Junior High School/Lower Secondary School; represents the end of compulsory education in Taiwan
- B** Transcript and Certificate of Graduation awarded after graduation from 3 years of Senior High School; comparable to high school diploma in U.S.; requires credential **A** for admissions
- C** Transcript and Certificate of Graduations awarded after graduation from 3 years of Comprehensive High School. Curriculum may be senior high school curriculum only (comparable to college-prep high school diploma in U.S.), vocational track only (comparable to high school diploma in U.S.), or academic and vocational combined (comparable to high school diploma in U.S.); requires credential **A** for admissions
- D** Transcript and Certificate of Graduation awarded after graduation from 3 years of Combined High School; comparable to high school diploma in U.S.; requires credential **A** for admissions
- E** Transcript and Certificate of Graduation awarded after graduation from 3 years of Experimental Senior High School; comparable to high school diploma in U.S.; requires credential **A** for admissions
- F** Transcript and Certificate of Graduation awarded after graduation from 3 years of Single-Program Senior High School; comparable to high school diploma in U.S.; requires credential **A** for admissions
- G** Transcript and Certificate of Graduation awarded after graduation from 3 years of Senior Vocational School; transcripts are often not available in English; comparable to high school diploma in U.S.; requires credential **A** for admissions

Postsecondary

- H** Transcript and Certificate of Graduation from Five-Year Junior College Program; five years; requires credential **A** for admissions; comparable to high school diploma in U.S. for the first three years and a U.S. Associate degree for the last two years
- I** Transcript and Certificate of Graduation from Two-Year Junior College; two years; requires credential **B, C, D, E, F, or G** for admissions; comparable to U.S. Associate degree

- J** Transcript and Certificate of Graduation in Nursing from Two-Year Junior College; two years; requires credential **B, C, D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; can lead to credential **M** in Nursing, or credential **T** in with 3 years of employment; comparable to Associate degrees offered at U.S. community colleges
- K** Transcript and Certificate of Graduation in Nursing from Five-Year Junior College; five years; requires credential **B, C, D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; comparable to high school diploma in U.S. for the first three years and a U.S. Associate degree for the last two years
- L** Transcript and Two-year Upper Division Bachelor's degree; two years; requires credential **J** for admissions; comparable to Bachelor degree earned at U.S. universities for holders of U.S. Associate degrees
- M** Transcript and Bachelor (of Arts, Science, Business Administration, Education, Pharmacy, Nursing, or Engineering) Degree Certificate; four years; requires credential **B, C, D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; equivalent to U.S. Bachelor degree
- N** Transcript and Bachelor of Laws; four years; requires credential **B, C, D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; equivalent to U.S. Bachelor degree
- O** Qualified Teacher Certificate; allows holder to teach at appropriate school level; requires credential **M** from teacher college/university or non-education Bachelor plus one-year education course
- P** Transcript and Bachelor of Fine Arts; five years; requires credential **B, C, D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; equivalent to U.S. Bachelor degree
- Q** Transcript and Bachelor of Architecture; awarded after five years; requires credential **B, C, D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; equivalent to U.S. Bachelor degree
- R** Transcript and Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Medicine; five years; requires credential **B, C, D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; equivalent to first professional degree in veterinary medicine in U.S.
- S** Transcript and Doctor of Dental Surgery; six years; requires credential **B, C, D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; previously called Bachelor of Science in Dentistry.
- T** Transcript and Master (of Arts, Science, Business Administration, Fine Arts, Nursing, or Education) Degree Certificate; two to four years; requires credential **M** for admissions; some holders of credential **H** or **I** with 2-3 years of work experience are eligible for admissions to a longer program; equivalent to U.S. Masters degree
- U** Transcript and Doctor of Medicine (Traditional Program); seven to eight years; requires credential **B, C, D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; equivalent to U.S. Doctor of Medicine; previously called Bachelor of Chinese Medicine
- V** Transcript and Doctor of Medicine (Post-Bachelor Program); five years; require credential **M** for admissions; equivalent to U.S. Doctor of Medicine
- W** Transcript and Master of Science in Dentistry; two to four years; requires credential **S** for admissions; equivalent to D.D.S. degree in the U.S.
- X** Transcript and Doctor of Philosophy Degree Certificate; two to seven years; requires credential **T** or its equivalent for admissions; equivalent to U.S. Doctor of Philosophy degree
- Y** Transcript and Doctor of Philosophy in Medicine; four to seven years; requires credential **T** or **V** for admissions
- Z** Transcript and Master of Science in Medicine; two years; requires credential **U** or **V** for admissions

Note: The first three years of a five-year Junior College Program (a.k.a. Institute of Technology) include senior vocational education. This unique program provides junior high graduates with 3 years of senior high school and 2 years of junior college. The high

school curriculum falls between those of the Senior Vocational School and the Senior High School. Graduates receive a Certificate of Graduation at the end of the 5-year program (when they are about 20 years old) and do not receive a high school diploma. Those who do not complete all five years but finish the first three are still considered high school graduates, despite having no credential.

Note: The Joint College Entrance Exam (JCEE) was originally the only means available for admissions into university programs. After a 2002 education reform, students may now use a combination of high school transcripts, other admissions exams, recommendations by high schools, extracurricular activities, and other criteria to apply to colleges or universities in Taiwan.

GRADING SCALE

Elementary and Junior High School

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C*	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Note: a C average is required for graduation from Elementary and Junior High School.

Senior High School

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A+	Excellent	90-100
A	Very Good	80-89
B	Good	70-79
C	Pass	60-69
D*	Fail	0-59

Note: 60 is the minimum passing grade in High School, so a D on a transcript is failing.

Higher Education

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A	80-100
B	70-79
C	60-69
D*	50-59
E	0-49

Note: 60 is the minimum passing grade at the Undergraduate level and is not the same as a grade of D in the U.S.. Students earning a 50-59 are generally required to retake the course and exam. Graduate programs often require a minimum of 70 for passing, and many graduate programs have their own grading scale. Grading scales for higher education institutions are usually posted on the bottom of the transcript.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODIES

Ministry of Education: <http://english.moe.gov.tw>

China Education and Research Network:
<http://www.edu.cn/HomePage/english/resources/universities/index.shtml>

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hu, Julie and Muriel M. Zhou. *Taiwan: A Study of the Education System of Taiwan and Guide to the Academic Placement of Students in Education Institutions in the United States*. Washington, DC: AACRAO, 2004.

Education in Taiwan. World Education News and Reviews, Nick Clark, 2002.
<http://www.wes.org/ewenr/02nov/Practical.htm>

Taiwan Education Center: Universities, Colleges in the Republic of China:
<http://www.tw.org/education/univcolist.html>

An Update on Education in Taiwan. NAFSA Conference, 2000. Woolston, Valerie.
<http://www.tw.org/TaiwanUpdate.html>

Submitted by
Peggy Bell Hendrickson
University of North Texas-Denton
August 2008