

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Trinidad & Tobago



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

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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

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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 - 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
 ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½
 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.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A National Certificate of Secondary Education (NCSE) Level 1, awarded by the National Examinations Council at the end of Form 3, implemented in 2006 after a pilot program in 2005 in selected schools
- B National Certificate of Secondary Education (NCSE) Level 2, awarded by the National Examinations Council, implemented in 2007 in selected schools
- C Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC): awarded by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC)
- D General Certificate of Education (GCE), Ordinary Level: awarded by various examination boards, including the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and the University of London; see the United Kingdom for grading information
- E Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE): awarded by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), requires credential **C** for admission; Certificate is awarded following a one-year program and successful completion of one unit, Diploma is awarded following a two-year program and successful completion of six units, introduced as a replacement for the GCE Advanced Levels in 2003
- F General Certificate of Education (GCE), Advanced Level: awarded by various examination boards, including the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and the University of London: two-year program following credential **D**; see the United Kingdom for grading information

Postsecondary

- G Certificate awarded by a variety of non-university postsecondary institutions or a university: typically represents completion of one year of academic study, admission varies, but often credential **C** or equivalent is required
- H Diploma, Technician Diploma awarded by a variety of non-university postsecondary institutions or a university: typically represents completion of two years of academic study with possible additional co-operative on-the-job training periods, admission varies, but often credential **C** or equivalent is required
- I Associate's degree awarded by a tertiary level institution: represents completion of two years of academic study requiring credential **C** or equivalent for admission
- J Teacher's Diploma or Technical Teacher's Diploma awarded by the Ministry of Education based on study completed at a recognized Teacher Training College:

- represents completion of two years of academic study requiring credential **C** or equivalent for admission
- K Certificate in Education awarded by a tertiary level institution: represents completion of one year of academic study requiring credential **J** for admission
 - L Licentiate in Theology awarded by the University of the West Indies: represents completion of two years of academic study requiring credential **F** or equivalent for admission
 - M Bachelor's degree in various fields awarded by a university: represents completion of three to four years of academic study requiring credential **F** or equivalent for admission, or four to five years of academic study requiring credential **C** or equivalent for admission; see also credential **O**
 - N Diploma in Education awarded by a university: represents completion of one year of academic study requiring credential **M** for admission
 - O Bachelor of Education awarded by a university: represents completion of three years of academic study requiring credential **F** or equivalent for admission, or four years of study requiring credential **C** or equivalent for admission
 - P Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) awarded by the University of the West Indies: represents completion of five years of academic study requiring credential **F** or equivalent for admission
 - Q Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) awarded by the University of the West Indies: represents completion of five years of academic study requiring credential **F** or equivalent for admission
 - R Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) awarded by the University of the West Indies: represents completion of five years of academic study requiring credential **F** or equivalent for admission
 - S Postgraduate Diploma awarded by a university: represents completion of one year of academic study requiring credential **M** or equivalent for admission
 - T Master's degree in various fields awarded by a university; represents completion of two years of academic study requiring credential **M** or equivalent for admission
 - U Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree awarded by the University of the West Indies: represents completion of a minimum of two years of academic research study requiring credential **M** or equivalent for admission
 - V Doctor of Medicine (DM) Specialist degree awarded by the University of the West Indies: represents completion of an advanced medical specialization program requiring credential **R** and a valid medical license for admission, program lengths vary
 - W Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree awarded by the University of the West Indies: represents completion of a minimum of three years of academic research study requiring credential **R** or equivalent for admission
 - X Doctor of Philosophy degree awarded by the University of the West Indies: represents completion of a minimum of three years of academic research study requiring credential **T** or equivalent for admission; transfer from credential **U** may be granted

GRADING SCALES

Secondary

Caribbean Examinations Council: until 1998 (Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate)

Number	Description
I	Comprehensive working knowledge of the syllabus
II	Working knowledge of most aspects of the syllabus
III	Working knowledge of some aspects of the syllabus
IV	Limited knowledge of a few aspects of the syllabus
V	Insufficient evidence on which to base a judgment

Caribbean Examinations Council: since 1998 (Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate)

Number	Description
I	Comprehensive grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skill, and competencies required by the syllabus
II	Good grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skill, and competencies required by the syllabus
III	Fairly good grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skill, and competencies required by the syllabus
IV	Moderate grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skill, and competencies required by the syllabus
V	Limited grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skill, and competencies required by the syllabus
VI	Very limited grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skill, and competencies required by the syllabus

Caribbean Examinations Council (Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations)

Number	Description
One (I)	represents an excellent performance
Two (II)	represents a very good standard of performance
Three (III)	represents a good standard of performance
Four (IV)	represents a satisfactory standard of performance
Five (V)	represents an acceptable level of performance
Six (VI)	represents weak performance
Seven (VII)	represents unsatisfactory performance

The CAPE examinations use seven overall grades: I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII in reporting candidate's overall results along with the profile grades, A, B, C, D, E, F and G.

Postsecondary

Undergraduate degrees may be awarded with one of the following honours classifications: first class, second class upper division, second class lower division, or third class. If the performance has been insufficient for an Honours degree, the degree may be awarded as a Pass degree.

Postgraduate degrees are awarded with the following classifications: distinction (A) and pass (B+ and B).

University of the West Indies, St. Augustine undergraduate grading scales (GPA starting 2003/04)

Grade	GPA	Marks*	Marks**	GPA and Marks***
A+	4.3	86-100	80-100	4.0 86-100
A	4.0	70-85	70-79	3.8 76-85
A-	3.7	67-69	67-69	3.5 70-75
B+	3.3	63-66	63-66	3.0 60-69
B	3.0	60-62	60-62	2.8 55-59
B-	2.7	57-59	57-59	2.5 50-54
C+	2.3	53-56	53-56	2.0 47-49
C	2.0	50-52	50-52	1.8 43-46
C-	1.7	47-49	47-49	1.5 40-42
D+	1.3	43-46	43-46	Grade:
D	1.0	40-42	40-42	S 35-39
F	0.0	0-39	0-39	F 00-34

*Faculties of Humanities & Education, Social Sciences, and Science & Agriculture

**Faculty of Engineering

***Faculty of Medical Sciences B.Sc. (Pharmacy)

University of the West Indies, St. Augustine medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine grading scales:

Grade	prior to 1999/2000	from 1999/2000
A	75-100	75-100
B+	65-74	65-74
B	55-65	60-64
C	45-50	50-59
D	45-50	-
E	40	-
F	-	00-50

University of the West Indies, St. Augustine postgraduate grading scales:

Grade	Marks
A	70-100
B+	60-69
B	50-59
F	00-49

University of Trinidad and Tobago undergraduate grading scale:

Grade	GPA	Marks
A+	4.0	90-100
A	4.0	85-89
A-	3.7	80-84
B+	3.3	77-79
B	3.0	73-76
B-	2.7	70-72
C+	2.3	67-69
C	2.0	63-66
C-	1.7	60-62
D+	1.3	55-59
D	1.0	50-54
F	0.0	00-49

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

According to the Education Act of 1966, the Ministry of Education has been the primary authority overseeing all aspects of pre-primary, primary, secondary and postsecondary education. With regards to tertiary education, the Ministry of Education is responsible for teacher training conducted at postsecondary and tertiary level institutions, while the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education oversees other fields. In addition, the National Training Agency oversees institutions and programs providing National Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Since 2004, the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) has been the principal body for conducting and advising on the accreditation and recognition of postsecondary and tertiary education institutions. All institutions must be registered with ACTT in order to go through the process of accreditation.

Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) was established in 2003 to accredit medical, dental, veterinary, and other health professions education programs leading to professional degrees required for practice in the Commonwealth Caribbean. Institutions offering these programs in Trinidad and Tobago are subject to accreditation by CAAM-HP. For accreditation status of institutions visit <http://www.caam-hp.org>.

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and the other Health Professions – <http://www.caam-hp.org>

Caribbean Examinations Council – <http://www.cxc.org>

Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago – <http://www.gov.tt>

International Association of Universities, *Higher Education Systems Online Database* - http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/tt.rtf

Ministry of Education - <http://www.moe.gov.tt>

Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education - <http://stte.gov.tt>

National Training Agency - <http://www.ntatt.org>

Overseas Examinations Office – <http://www.overseasexams.com>

World Data on Education, 6th Edition, 2006/07: *Trinidad and Tobago* – http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/archive/Countries/WDE/2006/LATIN_AMERICA_and_the_CARIBBEAN/Trinidad_and_Tobago/Trinidad_and_Tobago.pdf

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