

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Venezuela



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Jennifer Gold
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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

1/2 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.

VENEZUELA

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

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A *Certificado de Educación Secundaria* (Certificate of Secondary Education): awarded upon completion of the three-year *Ciclo Básico Común* (Common Basic Cycle)
- B *Bachiller en...Ciencias, Humanidades, Ciencias y Humanidades, en Comercio* (*Bachiller* in...Sciences, Humanities, Sciences and Humanities, Commerce): awarded after a two-year *Ciclo Diversificado* (Diversified Cycle): requires credential **A** for admission¹
- C *Bachiller ...Agropecuario, Industrial, Asistencial, Mención Docencia* (*Bachiller* in...Agricultural and Animal Sciences, Industrial Studies, Social Services Areas, Specialization in Teaching): awarded after three-year *Ciclo Diversificado* (Diversified Cycle): requires credential **A** for admission; leads to postsecondary education^{1,2}
- D *Técnico Medio* (Intermediate Technician): two to three years of technical education; requires credential **A** for admissions; may lead to credential **E** programs.

Postsecondary

- E *Técnico Superior/Técnico Superior Universitario/Tecnólogo* (Higher Technician/Technologist): two years (rarely), or three years of study (usually) requiring credential **B**, **C**, or **D** for admission.
- F *Licenciado* (Licentiate): four or five years, requiring credential **B** for admission.³
- G *Ingeniero* (Engineer): four years (rarely) or five years of study, requiring credential **B** in science, **C** in industrial studies, or **D** for admission.³
- H *Profesor* (Teacher): four or five years of study, requiring credential **B**

in appropriate special or **C** with Mención Docencia for admission; may be awarded as *Profesor en...* (specialization) or *Licenciado en Educación, Mención* (specialization)

- I *Abogado* (Attorney): five years of study requiring credential **B** in humanities or sciences and humanities for admission.
- J *Arquitecto* (Architect): five years of study, or six years at *Universidad Nacional Experimental del Táchira*; credential **B** in science required for admission.
- K *Contador Público* (Public Accountant): five years of study requiring credential **B** in commerce or science for admission.
- L *Farmacéutico* (Pharmacist): five years of study requiring credential **B** in science for admission.
- M *Médico Veterinario* (Veterinary Physician): five years of study requiring credential **B** in science or credential **C** in agricultural and animal sciences for admission.
- N *Odontólogo* (Dentist): five years of study requiring credential **B** in science for admission.
- O *Licenciado en Teología* (Licentiate in Theology): five years, six or seven years of study, requiring credential **B** in humanities or science and humanities for admission.⁴
- P *Médico Cirujano* (Physician-Surgeon): six years of study, six and one-half years at the *Universidad Central de Venezuela* and the *Universidad Centro Occidental Lisandro Alvarado* or seven years at the *Universidad de Oriente* ; credential **B** in science required for admission.
- Q *Maestría* (Master): one or two years of study beyond any credentials **F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, or S**; the following terminology may be used: *magister en...* (specialization); *magister scientiae*; *magister scientiarum*; *master en...* (specialization).
- R *Doctor/Doctorado* (Doctor/Doctorate): two or more years of study beyond credentials **F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P** or, in some cases, credential **Q**
- S *Especialista* (Specialist) in non-medical areas: one or more years of study beyond related credentials **F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, and P**
- T *Especialista* (Specialist) in areas of medical science: two or more years of study beyond credential **P**

¹ *Bachiller* is usually translated as “bachelor” in the English language. This term is used in Venezuela to denote an upper secondary school graduate, rather than a university graduate. To avoid confusion, it is not translated in the list of credentials of documentation.

² All titles of *bachiller* are accepted for admission to postsecondary education; some postsecondary programs specify a required area of specialization.

³ Four-year *licenciado* programs are usually in the fields of *educación* (education) and *letras* (letras).

⁴ The theology curricula at the Universidad Católica Cecilio Acosta and the Universidad Católica Santa Rosa consist of five years of study; at the Universidad Católica Andres Bello the curriculum

consists of six years and at the Instituto Universitario Eclesiástico Santo Tomás de Aquino it consists of seven years of study.

GRADING SCALE

Secondary:

A scale from 20 to 0 is used: *aprobado* (pass) range from 20 (highest) to 10 (lowest passing), and *aplazado* (failure) for grades 9 to 0.

Postsecondary Education:

Technical Programs:

A scale from 9 to 0 is used mainly by *institutos universitarios* and some other technical institutions: *aprobado* (pass) grades range from 9 (highest) to 5 (lowest passing); however, a grade of 6 is required to continue to the next sequence or course. *Aplazado* (failure) is represented by grades 4 to 0.

Traditional University Scale:

A scale from 20 to 0 is used: *aprobado* (pass) range from 20 (highest) to 10 (lowest passing), and *aplazado* (failure) for grades 9 to 0. An average grade of 11 or 12 is often required for graduation.

Alternate University Scale:

A scale from 5 to 0 may be used, with 5 being the highest and 3 being the lowest passing grade. Grades 1 or 0 are rarely issued; rather the transcript may note course as *aplazado* (failure) or *diferido* (deferred to the next period).

SECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY:

Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Educación

Web site: www.mes.gov.ve

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Parroquia Altagracia, Caracas, Dtto. Capital
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POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY:

Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Educación Superior,

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RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Consejo Nacional de Universidades, Oficina de Planificación del Sector Universitario
Libro de Oportunidades de Estudio

<http://loe.cnu.gov.ve/>

Consejo Consultivo Nacional de Postgrado

<http://www.ccnpg.gov.ve/>

UNESCO – World Academic Database:

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

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