

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Brazil



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Lou Nunes
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Instructions for Using the *Online Guide to Educational Systems Around the World*

Susan Whipple, Editor

May 2011

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: <http://www.nafsa.org/aceforums>. For information on how to subscribe to the network, please visit www.nafsa.org/networksubscribe.

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.

BRAZIL

YEARS OF EDUCATION →

1→6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
C	C	A	B*		D*	D	K	J	K	L	L	N	O→	P→	P→			
		B			E*	E		K	L	M	M	O→	P→					
		C			F*	G			M	N	N	P→						
					G*	H			N	O→	O→	3						
					H	1				3	P→	4						
					I					4	3	4						
											4							

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A *Certificado de Conclusão de Primeiro (1º) Grau* (Certificate of Completion of 1st Cycle Education – grades 1 through 8) - signifies completion of eight years of compulsory education
- B *Certificado de Conclusão do Ensino Fundamental* (Certificate of Completion of Fundamental Education – grades 1 through 8 / 9*) - signifies completion of eight or nine years of compulsory education (through 9 after 2005)
- C *Certificado de Habilitação Básica* (Basic Professional Training Certificate) - signifies completion of a technical/vocational program, at the compulsory education level, with no academic equivalency; awarded by an *escola técnica* (technical school), SENAC, SESC
- D *Certificado de Conclusão de Segundo (2º) Grau* (Certificate of Completion of Second (2nd) Cycle Education – grades 9 through 11) - signifies completion of a three-year upper-secondary education program, requiring credential **A** or equivalent¹ for admission; awarded by a secondary school
- E *Certificado de Conclusão or Diploma do Ensino Médio* (Certificate of Completion or Diploma of Middle/Secondary Education – grades 9 through 11 / grades 10 through 12*) - signifies completion of a three-year upper-secondary education program, requiring credential **A** or **B** or equivalent for admission; awarded by a secondary school
- F *Certificado de Auxiliar Técnico* (Technical Assistant Certificate) - signifies completion of a three-year technical/vocational upper-secondary program, requiring credential **A** or **B** or equivalent for admission; awarded by an *escola técnica* (technical school), SENAC, SESC or a secondary school
- G *Diploma de Técnico* (Technician Diploma): signifies completion of a three-year technical/vocational upper-secondary program, requiring credential **A** or **B** or equivalent for admission; awarded by an *escola técnica* (technical school), SENAC, SESC or a secondary school
- H *Diploma de Professor do Ensino de Primeiro (1º) Grau / Diploma de Professor de Primeiro Grau* (Elementary Education Teacher Diploma)² - signifies completion of a three or four year upper-secondary level teaching program, requiring credential **A** or equivalent for admission; awarded by an *escola normal* (normal school) or a secondary school (phased out starting in 1997)

*Transition from 2005 to 2009; fully implemented in 2010

¹ Includes *supletivo* (adult education programs).

² Qualifies holder to teach grades 1-4 of *primeiro grau* (some experimental programs included grades 5-6)

- I *Certificado/Diploma de Professor Primário* (Elementary School Teacher Certificate/Diploma)³ - signifies completion of a three or four year upper-secondary level teaching program, requiring credential **A** or equivalent for admission; awarded by an *escola normal* (normal school) or a secondary school (phased out starting in 1997)

Postsecondary

- J *Licenciatura de Primeiro (1º) Grau* (Elementary School Licentiate) or *Licenciatura Curta* (Short Licentiate)⁴ - signifies completion of a three-year program requiring credential **D**, **F**, **G**, **H** or **I**, plus an entrance examination, for admission (phased out starting in 1997); awarded by an institution of higher education
- K *Título de Tecnólogo* (Title of Technologist) - signifies completion of a two or three-year program, requiring any credential **D** through **I**, plus an entrance examination, for admission; direct entry is granted to holders of a *Diploma de Técnico*; awarded by a *Centro de Federal de Educação Tecnológica* (Federal Center for Technology Education), *Instituto Federal de Educação Tecnológica* (Federal Institute for Technology Education), or another institution of higher education
- L *Título/Grau de Bacharel / Bacharelado* (Title/Degree of Bachelor)⁵ - signifies completion of a four to five-year program (a few programs three to four years), requiring any credential **D** through **I**, plus an entrance examination, for admission; awarded by an institution of higher education
- M *Título/Grau de Licenciado* or *Licenciatura Plena* (Title/Degree of Licentiate) or (Full Licentiate) - signifies completion of a four to five-year program, including pedagogical subjects, requiring any credential **D** through **I**, plus an entrance examination, for admission; awarded by an *Instituto Superior de Educação* (Higher Institute of Education), *universidades* (universities) or another institution of higher education
- N *Título Profissional* (Professional Title) - signifies completion of a four-to six-year program, requiring any credential **D** through **I**, plus an entrance examination, for admission: awarded by *universidades* (universities) or another institution of higher education
- O *Título/Grau de Mestre* (Title/Degree of Master)⁶ - signifies completion of a one-year (minimum) program, requiring credentials **L**, **M**, or **N** for admission; an institution/department entrance exam is also required; awarded by *universidades* (universities) or another institution of higher education
- P *Título/Grau de Doutor* (Doctor)⁷ - signifies completion of a two-year (minimum) program, requiring credential **O** for admission; an institution/department entrance exam is also required; awarded by *universidades* (universities) or another institution of higher education

Other Credentials

- 1 *Certificado de Curso Superior de Complementação de Estudos* (Higher Education Certificate of Complementary Studies) aimed at individual students - signifies completion of an undergraduate level course(s), requiring any credential **D** through **I**, for admission with no

³ Qualifies holder to teach grades 1-4 of *primeiro grau* (some experimental programs included grades 5-6).

⁴ Qualifies the holder to teach grades 5-8 of *primeiro grau* (1st cycle education).

⁵ The *Bacharel* and the *Licenciado* are equivalent degrees. The *Bacharel* is awarded in the specific subject field, while the *Licenciado* includes required pedagogical studies beyond the specific subject field. Holders of a *Licenciado* are eligible to teach the subjects in the major field of study.

⁶ Pós-graduação(graduate) education can be either *stricto sensu* (strict sense) or *lato sensu* (wide sense). *Stricto sensu* programs lead to the degrees of *mestre* or *doutor* and *lato sensu* programs (referring to any post-bachelor's specialization course) lead to a Certificate.

⁷ Pós-graduação(graduate) education can be either *stricto sensu* (strict sense) or *lato sensu* (wide sense). *Stricto sensu* programs lead to the degrees of *mestre* or *doutor* and *lato sensu* programs (referring to any post-bachelor's specialization course) lead to a Certificate; Brazilian universities do not generally grant credit for such courses.

entrance exam; it depends on availability of seats in any given regular accredited program; awarded by an institution of higher education; courses may be considered for the purpose of transfer credit at the discretion of the receiving institution

- 2 *Diploma de Curso Superior de Formação Específica* (Higher Education Diploma of Specific Training) aimed at a particular group - signifies completion of an undergraduate level program (not a degree program), requiring any credential **D** through **I**, for admission, with no entrance exam. Such programs do not require accreditation, but must be related to an accredited program; awarded by an institution of higher education; no transfer credit is recommended
- 3 *Certificado/Diploma de Curso de Especialização* (Specialization Program Certificate/Diploma) or *Título de Especialista* (Title of Specialist)⁸ – classified as a “*Lato Sensu*” (“Wide Sense”) program - signifies completion of graduate level program, which requires at least 360 hours of study, and requiring credentials **L**, **M**, or **N**, for admission, with no entrance exam; awarded by an institution of higher education or by a professional entity. Courses may be considered for the purpose of transfer credit at the discretion of the receiving institution.
- 4 MBA⁹ – classified as a “*Lato Sensu*” (“Wide Sense”) program - signifies completion of graduate level program, requiring credentials **L**, **M**, or **N**, for admission, with no entrance exam; awarded by an institution of higher education or by a professional entity.

GRADING SCALES

Description	Translation	Abbreviation	Numeric
Superior superior	Superior	SS	9.0-10.0
Media superior	Above Average	MS	7.0-8.9
Media media	Average	MM	5.0-6.9
Media inferior	Below Average	MI	3.0-4.9
Inferior inferior	Inferior	II	0.0-2.9
Sem rendimento	No Results; Fail		
Crédito concedido	Credit Granted		

Description	Translation	Numeric
Excelente	Excellent	9.0-10.0
Bom	Good	7.0-8.9
Regular	Average	5.0-6.9
Insuficiente	Insufficient	3.0-4.9
Deficiente	Deficient	0.0-2.9

Description	Translation	Numeric
Excelente	Excellent	A
Bom	Good	B
Regular	Average	C
Insuficiente	Insufficient	D

⁸ Pós-graduação(graduate) education can be either *stricto sensu* (strict sense) or *lato sensu* (wide sense). *Stricto sensu* programs lead to the degrees of *mestre* or *doutor* and *lato sensu* programs (referring to any post-bachelor’s specialization course) lead to a Certificate.

⁹ MBA programs are classified as *lato sensu* programs to the extent they require completion of an undergraduate degree for admission; Brazilian universities do not grant credit for such courses.

- The grade scales above constitute a small sample of the many possible grade scales used. The grade scale used by a university is often, but not always, indicated on the transcript. If needed, institutions may issue a statement regarding the grading scale used.
- Each university is autonomous in determining its grading scale.
- On a 0 – 10 or 0 -100 grade scale, according to policies determined by each individual institution, students may be exempted from final exams if they achieve a minimum determined average (usually 6 or 60 or 7 or 70) throughout the semester or year. However, 5 or 50 is the minimum passing grade as determined by law.
- At the secondary level, make-up classes and exams are available for students who indicate low academic performance. Grade of 5 or 50 is the minimum passing grade for make-up exams.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministério da Educação - MEC (Ministry of Education),
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 Brasília, DF, Brazil
 CEP: 70.047-900
 Tel: (55-61) 2022-7842 & (55-61) 2022-7861
 Fax: (55-61) 2022-7858
<http://portal.mec.gov.br/index.php>

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Print

Aldrich-Langen, Caroline, ed. 1978. *The Admission and Placement of Students from Selected South American Countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay*. Washington, D.D.: Joint Committee on Workshops.

Brazil: *A Study of the Educational System of Brazil and Guide to the Academic Placement of Students in Education Institutions in the United States*, PIER World Education Series, M. Lou Nunes, 2004.

Brazil, Country Education Profiles, NOOSR - National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition, 1993. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Office.

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

The Country Index. Vol. 1, revised ed. International Education Research Foundation, Inc. 1986. Alhambra, CA: Frank Severy Publishing.

On-line

Electronic Database for Global Education (EDGE) by American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO). Online database: <http://aacraoedge.aacrao.org> (accessible by subscription)

International Association of Universities (IAU) Online Database/World Higher Education Database - www.iau-aiu.net/onlinedatabases/index.html

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