

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—Senegal



**NAFSA**

Association of  
International Educators

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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](http://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

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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.

# SENEGAL

## 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	D	J	I	Q	S	X	Y	h	i	k→	i	i	
					H	E		J	R	T	Y	f	j→					
						F		K		U	Z	g	i					
					G			L		V	a							
								M		W	b							
								N			c→							
								O			d→							
								P			e							
											F							

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

- A *Brevet de Fin d'Études Moyennes/BFEM* (Certificate of End of Middle School): represents completion of 10 years of primary and lower secondary education
- B *Certificat Élémentaire d'Aptitude Pédagogique/CEAP* (Elementary Certificate of Pedagogical Aptitude): represents one year after credential **A** and is a terminal vocational qualification to teach grades 1-6 in Senegal
- C *Brevet d'Études Professionnelles/BEP* (Certificate of Professional studies): a two-year vocational credential that requires credential **A** for admission
- D *Brevet Professionnel* (Professional Certificate): represents one year after credential **C** and is a terminal vocational qualification
- E *Diplôme de Bachelier de l'Enseignement du Second Degré/Baccalauréat* (Diploma of Bachelor of Secondary Education/Baccalaureate): a three-year upper secondary credential that requires credential **A** for admission and gives access to university studies
- F *Brevet de Technicien* (Certificate of Technician): a three-year vocational upper secondary credential that requires credential **A** for admission. Does not give access to university studies.
- G *Baccalauréat Technique/Diplôme de Bachelier Technicien* (Technical Baccalaureate/Diploma of Bachelor Technician): a three-year vocational upper secondary credential that requires credential **A** for access. Gives access to technical post-secondary studies.
- H *Capacité en Droit* (Capability in Law): requires credential **A** for admission and takes two years of study to complete. Although earned at the university, it prepares students for employment or for access into the first year of the *Diplôme d'Études Juridiques Générales*.

### Postsecondary

- I *Diplôme Universitaire d'Études Littéraires/DEUL* (University Diploma of Literary Studies), *Diplôme Universitaire d'Études Scientifiques/DEUS* (University Diploma of Scientific Studies), *Diplôme d'Études Universitaires Générales/DEUG* (Diploma of General University Studies): each requires credential **E** for admission and represents two years of study. In an attempt to adopt the LMD (Licentiate, Master, Doctorate) reform, the two-year first cycle degrees are being phased out as of 2008-09. Please note that it might take time to implement the reform fully and in the meantime, the pre-LMD degrees continue to be awarded.

- J *Diplôme d'Études Juridiques Générales/DEJG* (Diploma of General Legal Studies) and the *Diplôme d'Études Économiques Générales/DEEG* (Diploma of General Economic Studies): each requires credential **H** or **E** for admission and represents two years of university study
- K *Diplôme d'Études Universitaires Professionalisées/DEUP* (Diploma of Professionalized University Studies): requires credential **E** for admission and represents two years of university study
- L *Certificat d'Aptitude Pédagogique/CAP* (Certificate of Pedagogical Aptitude): admission is based on credential **E**. Requires two years at a teacher training college and makes holders eligible to teach grades 1-6 in Senegal.
- M *Certificat d'Aptitude dans les Collèges de l'Enseignement Moyen/CAECEM* (Certificate of Aptitude for Lower Secondary Teaching in Middle Schools): admission is based on credential **E**. Requires two years of study and makes the holder eligible to teach grades 7-10 in Senegal.
- N *Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie/DUT* (University of Technology Diploma): this two-year qualification requires credential **E** for admission
- O *Brevet/Diplôme de Technicien Supérieur/BTS* or *DTS* (Certificate/Diploma of Higher Technician): admission to this vocational qualification is based on credentials **D** or **G** and requires two years to complete
- P *Diplôme Supérieure de Technologie/DST* (Higher Technology Diploma): admission is based on credentials **E** or **G** and requires two years of study
- Q *Licence* (Licentiate): requires one year of study beyond credentials **I** or **J** prior to 2008 or three years of study beyond credential **E** since implementing the LMD reform
- R *Licence Professionnelle* (Professional Licentiate): requires three years after credential **E** or **G** or one year after credentials **K**, **N**, **O** or **P**
- S *Maîtrise* (Maitrise): requires one year beyond credential **Q** and two years following credential **J**
- T Master I: equivalent of credential **S** following the LMD reform and requires one year of study beyond credential **Q**
- U *Master Professionnel* (Professional Master): a professional qualification earned one year following credential **R**
- V *Certificat de Aptitude à l'Enseignement Moyen/CAEM* (Certificate of Aptitude for Lower Secondary Teaching): represents one year beyond credential **Q** and makes the holder eligible to teach grades 7-10 in Senegal
- W *Certificat d'Aptitude au Professorat de l'Enseignement Secondaire/CAPES* (Certificate of Aptitude for Secondary Education): represents one year beyond credential **Q** and makes the holder eligible to teach grades 11-13 in Senegal
- X *Diplôme d'Ingénieur* (Engineering Diploma): requires five years of study after credential **E** or three years following credential **N**
- Y *Certificat d'Aptitude à l'Enseignement Secondaire Technique et Professionnel/CAESTP* (Certificate of Aptitude for Technical and Professional Secondary Education): requires three years after credentials **N**, **O** or **P**; two years after credentials **Q** or **R**; or one year after credential **X**
- Z *Certificat d'Études Supérieures/CESup* (Certificate of Higher Studies): requires one year beyond credential **S** or **T**
- a *Diplôme de Pharmacien* (Diploma of Pharmacist): requires five years beyond credential **E**
- b *Diplôme d'État de Docteur en Chirurgie Dentaire* (State Diploma of Doctor in Dental Surgery): represents five years of study following credential **E**
- c *Diplôme d'Études Approfondies/DEA* (Diploma of Advanced Studies): requires a minimum of one year of study following credential **S**. May be replaced by the Master or Master II following the LMD reform.

- d *Diplôme d'Études Supérieures Spécialisées/DESS* (Diploma of Higher Specialized Studies): requires a minimum of one year of study following credential **S** and is more professionally-oriented than credential **c**. May be replaced by the *Master Professionnel* following the LMD reform.
- e Master (also sometimes called the Master II): requires one year of study beyond credentials **S** or **T** or may represent two years beyond credential **Q**. Is considered the equivalent of credentials **c** or **d** since the LMD reform.
- f *Certificat d'Aptitude à l'Enseignement Secondaire/CAES* (Certificate of Aptitude for Secondary Education): admission is based on credentials **S** or **T** and requires a minimum of one year of study. Holders are eligible to teach grades 11-13 in Senegal.
- g *Diplôme d'État de Docteur en Médecine Vétérinaire* (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine): requires six years beyond credential **E**
- h *Diplôme d'État de Docteur en Médecine* (Diploma of Doctor in Medicine): represents seven years of study following credential **E**
- i *Certificat d'Études Spéciales/CES* (Certificate of Special Studies): requires credential **b**, **g** or **h** for access and represents an additional one to four years of study beyond these credentials
- j *Doctorat de Troisième Cycle* (Third Cycle Doctorate): represents a minimum of two years following credentials **c** or **e**, and requires the defense of a research-based dissertation
- k *Doctorat d'État* (State Doctorate): represents a minimum of two years beyond credential **j** and calls for a second doctoral dissertation. May be phased out with the LMD reform.

## GRADING SCALE

### Secondary and Postsecondary

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Translation</u>
16.0-20.0	<i>Très Bien</i>	Very Good
14.0-15.9	<i>Bien</i>	Good
12.0-13.9	<i>Assez Bien</i>	Quite Good
10.0-11.9	<i>Passable</i>	Satisfactory
00.0-09.9*	Ajourné	Failed

\*Students must have an overall average of 10.0 for the year in order to pass the year. Individual grades below 10.0 may be considered passing if the yearly average is 10.0 or above.

## POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

*Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale* (Ministry of National Education)  
 Rue Alpha Hachamiyou TALL  
 BP 4025  
 Dakar Senegal

## RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Print

International Association of Universities. *Guide to Higher Education in Africa*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

Saidi, Jasmin. *A Country Guide Series Report: The Republic of Senegal*. Washington, DC: American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, 2000.

Wells, Traci. "Senegal." *The New Country Index: Volume II*. Culver City, CA: International Education Research Foundation, 2011.

**On-line**

Assefa, Mariam. "Profiles of Higher Education in Selected Countries of French-Speaking Africa," News and Reviews (WES), Spring 1990:

[http://www.wes.org/ewenr/wenrarchive/RAF\\_ProfAfrFrSpeakingCountSpr90.pdf](http://www.wes.org/ewenr/wenrarchive/RAF_ProfAfrFrSpeakingCountSpr90.pdf)

*Electronic Database for Global Education*. Version 1.0. American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO): <http://aacraoedge.aacrao.org/>

International Association of Universities. *World Higher Education Database Online*. Palgrave MacMillan: <http://www.whed-online.com/>

International Comparisons. *UK NARIC* - National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom: <http://www.naric.org.uk/>

"Senegal-Education." *Encyclopedia of the Nations*. United Nations: <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Africa/Senegal-EDUCATION.html>

Senegal Ministry of National Education: <http://www.education.gouv.sn/>

*Université Cheick Anta Diop*: <http://www.ucad.sn/>

*Université Dakar-Bourguiba*: <http://www.ldb.sn/>

World Data on Education, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. UNESCO International Bureau of Education: [http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Publications/WDE/2010/pdf-versions/Senegal.pdf](http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/WDE/2010/pdf-versions/Senegal.pdf)

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