

Educational System

Students may study, under the current education system, for up to 20 years, which includes 6 years of primary education, 3 years of junior high school, 3 years of senior high school, 4 to 7 years of college or university, 1 to 4 years for a master's degree and 2 to 7 years for a doctoral degree.



Compulsory Education –

A 9-year Compulsory Education system was put into effect in SY1968, of which 6 years are for elementary education and 3 years for junior high school. To offer more diverse development opportunities for junior high school students, technical arts education is included as well, in addition to the regular curriculum. Practical classes allow students to better understand vocational education and their future career choices. Compulsory education will be extended to twelve years in SY2014.

Senior High School and Vocational Education –

This category includes senior high schools and vocational high schools and consists of three years of schooling. Senior high school includes “ordinary senior high schools,” “comprehensive senior high schools,” “magnet senior high schools,” and “experimental senior high schools.” Vocational high schools offer a special curriculum with general high school courses as well as classes in practical skills, classes in industry-related subjects, and cooperative education programs, all designed in line with the various needs of students for a balanced vocational education.

Junior College Education –

Junior college education can be classified according to admission requirements into 5-year junior colleges and 2-year junior colleges. 5-year junior colleges admit graduates of junior high schools, whereas 2-year junior colleges admit graduates of vocational high schools.

Teacher Education Programs –

The teacher education system, comprised of multiple providers, serves to screen potential teacher candidates and establish a pool of prospective teachers. Teachers who teach in preschool, primary school, junior high school, and senior high school are trained in universities of education with teacher training programs or centers. These institutions are also responsible for providing in-service training and guidance for local education practitioners. In December 2012, the Ministry published its White Paper on Teacher Education, which focuses on pre-employment training, counseling-infused teaching, teacher's professional development and support system with 9 development strategies and 28 action plans to provide a comprehensive plan for the education of teachers at all levels and for all subjects. To protect the teacher's professional status and the student's right to education, the Ministry will promote a professional development evaluation system for teachers in primary and secondary education. As a response to the implementation of 12-year Basic Education in SY2014, the Ministry will improve professional knowledge and skills for effective teaching, multiple evaluations and differentiated knowledge among teachers.

University / College and Graduate School Education –

The maximum study period for university education (including universities, colleges, universities of technology, and technical colleges) is 4 years (the Post-bachelor Second Specialty Program is 1-2 years, while the Associate Degree offered by technical colleges is usually 2 years), and internships can last one-half to 2 years depending on the needs of the subject. For Master's Degree candidates, the study period is 1-4 years and for Doctoral Degree candidates the duration is 2-7 years.

Arts Education –

The goals of arts education are to cultivate artistic talent, enrich the spiritual lives of citizens and elevate the cultural level. Arts education in Taiwan can be divided into professional arts education offered at schools, general arts education offered at schools and arts education offered to the public.

Special Education –

Special education institutions are established for students with mental and/or physical disabilities, and offer education at the levels of preschool, primary school (6 years), junior high school (3 years), and senior or vocational high school (3 years). Moreover, students with disabilities from all educational levels may apply for extensions according to their mental and physical conditions, learning needs and willingness.

Supplementary and Continuing Education –

Supplementary and continuing education institutions provide extensive and comprehensive learning opportunities for the general public. This kind of education can be divided into general supplementary education, continuing education, and short-term supplementary education. ■

The Current School System

