



6. Levels of Education

1. Kindergarten

Currently, most kindergartens are private-run. Public kindergartens are usually affiliated to primary schools. Pupils aged four to six are admitted for 1-2 years of schooling.

2. Primary School

Primary schools are mostly under the jurisdiction of county/city and municipal governments. All children aged at least six qualify for primary schooling without entry tests. After six years, students graduate with a primary diploma.

3. Junior High School

Junior high schools also mostly fall under the jurisdiction of county/city and municipal governments. After implementation of the nine-year compulsory education, primary school graduates aged at least 12 qualify for junior high school education lasting for three years. Successful graduates receive a junior high school diploma.

4. Senior Secondary School

Senior high schools, run by the government or by private institutions, are classified into: senior high, senior vocational, comprehensive, single-discipline, experimental and combined high schools. Students are required to take the Basic Achievement Test before they can be admitted to senior high school by applying, by meeting requirements and passing the entrance exam of individual schools for special subjects (admission through selection), by being registered and then assigned, or by recommendation

for admission. Students who complete the three years of studies with a passing grade will be granted a diploma.

Most upper-secondary vocational programs are provided by senior vocational schools, some vocational programs are already being included in comprehensive high schools though. A senior vocational school graduate may choose to take a job or go on to further studies. The channels for further education are two-year junior colleges of technology and four-year programs at colleges / universities of technology.

5. Junior Colleges

Junior colleges may be government or private-run, but currently most are private. There are two- and five-year junior colleges. Students from senior high schools or senior vocational schools may be admitted to two-year junior colleges. Students are required to take entrance examinations before being admitted. There are other admission channels, including selection, registration for being allocated and assured recommendation. Students who have been in school for the stipulated minimum time period and completed all required credits will be awarded with a graduation certificate.

6. Universities of Technology and Institutes of Technology

Universities and institutes of technology are either government or private-run. They offer vocational school graduates opportunities for further studies and are classified into two-year and four-year institutes. Two-year institutes admit junior college graduates while four-year institutes admit senior vocational school gradu-

ates. Students are required to take entrance examinations before being admitted. There are other admission channels, including selection, registration for being allocated and assured recommendation. Students who have been in school for the stipulated minimum time period and completed all required credits will be awarded with a bachelor degree.

7. Universities and Independent Colleges

Universities and independent colleges may be established and run either by government or private sector. At present, flexible admission channels include allocation based on test scores of entrance examinations and entry based on selection from personal applications and recommendations by high schools.

In principle, students are required to undergo the four-year education. However, such period may be prolonged for one year or two in consideration of specific requirements of the program taken. Special practicum for an extra period from six months to two years may be added if necessary. Students who complete the required course within the designated time and fulfill all requirements for graduation shall be conferred on bachelor's degree.

8. Normal Universities and Teachers Colleges

In Taiwan, normal universities and teachers colleges are account for most of training and education for teachers of secondary and elementary schools and kindergartens. Both of the two institutions offer four-year programs of teacher education and training, and recruit students from senior secondary schools.

Colleges and universities other than those aforementioned types what fulfill relevant requirements may be eligible for teacher educa-

tion and training as well. In general, colleges and universities may offer secondary-education, elementary school, and kindergarten teacher education programs, and the duration of studies shall be two years in the minimum. Those institutions offering such teacher education programs are entitled to undertake affairs related to training of teachers at the level correspondent with that of the training program they offer.

9. Graduate Schools

Public and private universities and independent colleges of good standing may establish graduate schools upon approval by the Ministry of Education. Applicants must meet specific admission criteria and pass an entrance examination administered by the school. A master's or doctoral degree will be conferred by the school only after a student has completed the graduate program of study with satisfactory performance and after passing a comprehensive examination (doctoral candidates are further required to pass a qualifying evaluation). Master's level students matriculated for at least a year and who have shown outstanding performance may be recommended to directly pursue a doctoral degree.

10. Special Schools for the Physically and Mentally Challenged

These schools have been established for training of the visually disabled, the hearing impaired, the mentally handicapped and the physically challenged. Currently, there are 22 public and 2 private schools under this category. Admission requirements and the duration of the teaching programs are regulated by 'the Compulsory Education Law' and 'the Special Education Law'. Different academic programs have been designed to meet the specific needs of



the handicapped students.

11. Supplementary and Continuing Education Schools

These schools are either government or private-run. There are divided into six levels: adult basic education, primary and junior high supplement education, senior (vocational) high, junior college, and university continuing education. Students of university continuing education program will be granted a bachelor's degree upon completion of the program. Students under the junior college continuing education program will be conferred an associate bachelor's degree upon completion of the required credits. Students who complete junior high, senior high and vocational supplementary programs are conferred a graduation diploma. The basic educational training program has been designed for the illiterate who are at least 15 years old.

Upon completion of the training program, they are conferred a graduation certificate, which qualifies them to attend the primary supplementary program.

12. Open Universities

These schools are of two types: national and municipal open universities. They provide adults with advanced and continuing education through audio-visual mass communication media. Open university students can either be officially registered or auditing. Officially registered students, who must be 20 or older, are admitted after passing an entrance examination. There is no prerequisite educational level for those who are auditing. However, they must at least be 18 years old. Officially registered students who fulfill the program requirements are conferred a bachelor's degree.

School Patterns

Category		Established Body	Qualifications of Admission	Period of Study	Conditions of Graduation
Pre-school Education	Kindergarten	National, Municipal, City/County, Private	Age 4 to 6	1 or 2 years	
Compulsory Education	Primary School	National, Municipal, City/County, Private	Age 6 to 15	6 years	Satisfactorily completed 6 years of schooling
	Junior High School			3 years	Satisfactorily completed 6 years of schooling
Senior Secondary Education	Senior High School	National, Municipal, City/County, Private	Graduated from junior high school; taking two basic achievement exams in junior high school; going through multi-admissions: a. By applying, b. By meeting requirements and passing the entrance exam for special subjects of the individual school, c. By registering and then being assigned.	3 years	Satisfactorily completed 3 years of schooling
	Senior Vocational School			3 years	Same as Senior High School
Higher Education	Junior College	National, Municipal, Private	Graduated from senior vocational school, taking the unified entrance exam; going through multi-admissions.	5-Year	Satisfactorily completed at least 220 credits
				2-Year	2 years
	Institute of Technology (University of Technology)	4-Year		National, Private	4 years

School Patterns (CONTINUED)

Category		Established Body	Qualifications of Admission	Period of Study	Conditions of Graduation	
Higher Education	Institute of Technology (University of Technology)	2-Year	National, Private	Graduated from junior college, taking the unified entrance exam; going through multi-admissions.	2 years	Having earned at least 72 credits
	University or College		National, Municipal, Private	Graduated from senior secondary school or equivalent; taking the unified entrance exam; going through multi-admissions.	4 to 7 years	Having earned at least 128 credits
	Graduate School	Master Program	National, Municipal, Private	Holder of bachelor's degree, 2-year or 5-year junior college graduate with 3-year working experience, and one passing master's degree program entrance examination	from 1 to 4 years	1. Having earned required credits, produced thesis and passed the degree test. 2. For the master's degree programs in arts or in applied sciences and technologies, the required thesis may be replaced either by the exhibition performance plus the written report or by the technical report.
		Ph. D. Program	National, Municipal, Private	Holder of master's degree, student of master's degree with excellent performance, medical science graduate with 2-year working experience. Holder of bachelor's degree with 6-year working experience of excellent performance, and one passing Ph. D. entrance examination.	from 2 to 7 years	Having earned required credits, passed the Ph. D. candidate qualification test, produced dissertation, and passed oral examination
Special Education	Special School	Kindergarten	National, Municipal, County/City, Private	Age 3 to 6		
		Primary		Age 6 to 18	6 to 12 years	Same as primary school
		Junior High		Graduated from special primary school	3 years	Same as junior high school
		Senior High (Vocational)		Graduated from special junior high school	3 years	Same as senior high (vocational) school
Supplementary and Continuing Education	Supplementary Primary School		National, Municipal, County/City	Age 12 or over	Jr. 6 to 12 month Sr. 18 to 24 month	Satisfactorily completed the period of study
	Supplementary Junior High School				Minimum 3 years	
	Continuing Senior Secondary School	Senior High	National, Municipal, Private	Age 15 or over; graduated from junior high school or equivalents	3 years	Satisfactorily completed 3 years schooling and passed the qualification examination.
		Senior Vocational	National, Municipal, Private	Some as continuing senior high school	3 years	The same as continuing senior high school
		Practical Technical Program	National, Municipal, Private	Age 15 or over; graduated from junior high school; having passed IQ and Aptitude test if there are many applicants	From 1 to 3 years	Satisfactorily completed 1 or 3 years program
	Continuing Junior College		National	Graduated from senior secondary school or equivalents; having passed the entrance examination	Minimum 3 years	Having earned 75 to 85 credits and passed the qualification examination
	Continuing College		National, Municipal	Age 20 or over; graduated from senior secondary school or equivalents	No limit	Having earned at least 128 credits
Open University						