

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 secondary school, 4 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

9-year Compulsory Education system was put into effect in SY 1968, 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. 12-year Basic Education was carried out in SY 2014.

Senior Secondary Education

Senior secondary education consists of three years of schooling and includes "general senior secondary schools," "skill-based senior secondary schools," "comprehensive senior secondary schools," and "specialized senior secondary schools."

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 skill-based senior secondary schools.

Teacher Education Programs

The teacher education system is comprised of diversified, training and selecting methods.



Teachers who teach in preschool, primary school, junior high school, and senior secondary school are trained in universities of education or normal universities 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 SY 2014, the Ministry will improve professional knowledge and skills for effective teaching, multiple evaluations and differentiated knowledge among teachers. In February 2016, the Ministry of Education issued the "Republic of China Teacher Professionalism Standards Guide" as a reference for pre-work training and for the development of teachers' professionalism.

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 bachelor's program 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 limited to 1-4 years and for Doctoral Degree candidates to 2-7 years.

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.

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.

Supplementary and Continuing Education

Supplementary and continuing education have the aim to supplement citizens' life knowledge, raise the education attainment, transfer practical skills, cultivate sound citizens, and help society to progress. This education system offers supplementary education, continuing education, and short-term supplementary education: all citizens who are past the usual study age but have not received the nine years of basic education can benefit from supplementary education; citizens who did receive nine-year basic education can receive continuing education; citizens who want to improve their life knowledge and ability can receive short-term supplementary education. ■

The Current School System

Note: The duration of master program is 1 to 4 years, doctoral program is 2 to 7 years. The duration of medicine school is shortened from 7 years to 6 years since SY 2013.

