

The Educational System

The present education structure supports 22 years of formal study. Completion times are flexible, depending upon the needs of the students. Normally, the entire process requires 2 years of preschool education, 6 years of primary school, 3 years of junior high, 3 years of senior high school, 4-7 years of college or university, 1-4 years of a graduate school program, and 2-7 years of a doctoral degree program.

Compulsory Education

The MOE implemented a ten-year trial compulsory education program nationwide. That program was designed to integrate junior high school and senior vocational school curricula. Now, junior high school students, who are interested in beginning a program in vocational training, could do so during the last year of their junior high school for two years.

Senior High and Senior Vocational Education

There are two types of institutions for students above the junior high school level. They are senior high and senior vocational schools, both take three years to complete. Senior vocational schools offer courses in areas such as agriculture, industry, business, maritime studies, marine products, medicine, nursing, home economics, drama and art.

Junior College Education

Junior colleges fall into two categories, five-year junior college and two-year junior college, each having a different set of admission requirements. Five-year junior colleges admit junior high school graduates, and offer five-year courses of study. Two-year junior colleges admit senior vocational high school graduates and offer two-year courses of study.

Normal Education and Training Programs

In Taiwan, the teacher training programs are available at the higher education level and they usually last four years. Those programs fall into two

categories: (1) Programs for training teachers of secondary education; and (2) Programs for training teachers of primary and kindergarten education. The former are primarily offered by normal universities while the latter are chiefly offered by normal colleges.

University Education

University undergraduate programs require four years of study; however, students who are unable to fulfill their requirements within the designated time, may be granted extensions, up to two years. Specialized undergraduate programs such as dentistry or medicine require six to seven years, including an internship period of one year.

Graduate Education

Graduate programs leading to a master or doctoral degree requires one to four years and two to seven years, respectively. But students who enter the graduate school as part of on-job training can be granted an extension, if they fail to finish the required courses or to complete their thesis/dissertation on time.

Special Education

Only designated schools are allowed to admit students who are mentally or physically challenged. Special education in preschool and primary school requires at least six years, in junior high school, three years, and in senior high and senior vocational school, three years. Special classes are offered by regular education institutions, including primary, junior, and senior high schools.

Supplementary and Continuing Education

Supplementary and continuing education provides citizens with an alternative way to achieve their educational goals. Based on the curriculum provided, it is classified into three main categories: basic education, advanced study and short-term supplementary education. The study periods vary according to their curriculum design.

Current School System

