



# EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

## The Educational System

The current education system supports 22 years of academic study. The education process includes 2 years of preschool education, 6 years of elementary school, 3 years of junior high school, 3 years of senior high school or vocational education, 4-7 years of college or university, 1-4 years for a master's degree program and 2-7 years for a doctoral degree program.

## Compulsory Education

The MOE introduced compulsory education in 1968 with a 9-year program which included 6 years of elementary education and 3 years of junior high. In a nationwide trial of a 10-year compulsory education program aimed at integrating the curricula of junior and senior high schools and vocational schools, junior high school students who prefer vocational training can select 2 years of vocational training instead of having the last year of junior high school. To develop a more complete educational environment with fewer burdens for students, the MOE is preparing to implement a 12-year compulsory education program that will integrate primary education, junior high and senior high or vocational education in School Year (SY) 2014.

## Senior High and Vocational Education

Senior high or vocational education comes after junior high school in Taiwan. Both senior high and vocational school education provide 3 years of academic training. Vocational schools offer courses in several subject areas such as agriculture, industry, commerce, marine studies, home economics and the arts.

## Junior College Education

A junior college education offers students a 2 or 5-year program, each with a different set of admission requirements. The 5-year program accepts graduates from the junior high school level, while the 2-year system accepts senior high and vocational school graduates.

## Teacher Education Programs

Taiwan's teacher education system is divided into two programs. Graduates of normal universities are qualified to teach at junior and senior high schools; graduates of universities of education are qualified to teach at kindergartens and elementary schools.

## University/College Programs

University/College undergraduate programs require 4 years of study, and students who

cannot successfully finish their studies within this period can apply for an extension of up to 2 years. Other specialized undergraduate programs such as dentistry or medicine mostly take 6-7 years, including 1 year of internship.

## Graduate University/College Programs

Graduate programs require 1-4 years for a master's degree and 2-7 years for a doctoral degree, depending on students' academic research and performance. Students who hold jobs and take postgraduate programs as part of an on-the-job training program can apply for an extension if they fail to complete their required courses on time or to finish their thesis or dissertation.



## Special Education Programs

Only certain schools or educational institutions are allowed to accept students with special needs. Special education in preschool education and primary school requires at least 6 years; in junior high school, 3 years; and in senior high and senior vocational school, 3 years. Special classes are also offered by regular educational institutions, including primary, junior and senior high schools.

## Supplementary Education

Supplementary education provides citizens with another window of opportunity to achieve their educational goals. It is divided into three main categories: basic education, advanced education and short-term supplementary education. The study durations vary with the curriculum design for each category.



# THE CURRENT SCHOOL SYSTEM

