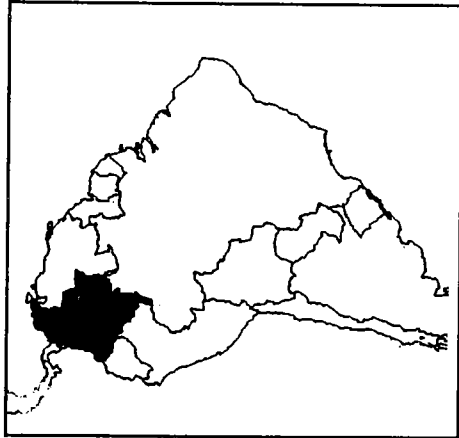


Colombia



Almost all of Colombia's native Amerindians have been assimilated into the estimated population of about 33 million. Over 65% of the people reside in urban areas. The literacy rate is about 85%. The country has been subjected to revolutionary movements in recent years which have threatened its social and political institutions, but it remains one of the oldest democracies in Latin America. The *Ministerio de Educación Nacional* (Ministry of National Education) controls all aspects of both public and private education, except for founding and funding new

schools, which are the responsibility of the states. Each of the 23 states has a *secretario de educación*. Education is compulsory and free at primary level, which is five years in length. Spanish is the medium of instruction. Minimal fees are charged at secondary level, which is divided into two cycles: four years of *ciclo básico* and two additional years in *ciclo diversificado* or *ciclo vocacional*. Technical training also is provided at secondary level through technical apprenticeships provided by the *Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje/SENA* (National Apprenticeship Ser-

vice). Higher education is offered at both public and private *institutos, colegios, politécnicos, escuelas, fundaciones, and universidades*. Since 1980, teachers are trained at postsecondary level for four years. Private institutions have proliferated in the last 20 years and enroll the majority of students. Both public and private institutions are supervised by the *Instituto Colombiano para el Fomento de la Educación Superior/ICFES* (Colombian Institute for the Development of Higher Education).

Credential Name	Entrance Requirement	Length of Program	Type of Program	Gives Access to
Level: Ciclo Diversificado/Vocacional (Upper Secondary Education) following 5 years of primary and 4 years of lower secondary education				
<i>Bachillerato en (specialization)</i>	completion of <i>ciclo básico</i>	2 years	academic/commercial	further study
Level: Educación Superior (Higher Education)				
Non-university				
<i>Título de Técnico Profesional Intermedio</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	2 years	technical	further study
<i>Título de Tecnólogo</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	3 years	technical	further study
<i>Título de Tecnólogo Especializado</i>	<i>Título de Tecnólogo</i>	2 years	technical	further study
University*				
<i>Título de Tecnólogo</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	3 years	academic/tech.	further study
<i>Licenciatura/título profesional</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	3-6 years	academic/prof.	further study
<i>Arquitecto</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	5 years	academic/prof.	further study
<i>Abogado</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	5 years	academic/prof.	further study
<i>Ingeniero</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	5 years	academic/prof.	further study
<i>Médico cirujano, doctor en medicina</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	6 years	academic/prof.	further study
<i>Maestro (in art, music)</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	4-6 years	teacher training	further study
<i>Magister</i>	<i>Licenciatura, Título Profesional, Título de Tecnólogo Especializado</i>	2 years + thesis	academic/prof.	further study
<i>Especialista</i>	Same as above	1-4 years	academic	
<i>Doctorado**</i>	Same as above, or <i>Magister</i>	min. 2 years + dissert.	academic	

* The *Certificado de Egresado* may be awarded at tertiary level for academic coursework completed for a *licenciatura* or *título profesional* when the thesis or a project has not been completed.

** Before the major educational reform in 1980, some universities awarded first university degrees employing the term "doctor."