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## Cuban Academic Documents: from the Obvious to the Obscure

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### Educational Structure

- A. *Educación Preescolar*  
Pre-school (Early Childhood) Education
- B. *Educación General Politécnica y Laboral*  
General Technical and Labor Education
- C. *Educación Técnica y Profesional*  
Technical and Professional Education
- D. *Educación Especial*  
Special Education
- E. *Educación de Adultos*  
Adult Education
- F. *Formación y Entrenamiento de Profesores*  
Teacher Training and Upgrading
- G. *Educación Superior*  
Higher Education

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### Educación Preescolar Pre-school Early Childhood Education

ages 1 to 5

*circulo infantil* / infant and toddlers cycle (ages 1-4)  
*centros infantiles* / day care centers

*grado preescolar* / pre-school (age 5)  
*escuelas infantiles* / kindergarten

external schools / mixed schools / boarding schools

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**Educación General Politécnica y Laboral**  
**General Technical and Labor Education**

1. **Educación Primaria**  
Elementary Education
2. **Educación Secundaria Básica**  
Basic (Lower-) Secondary Education
3. **Educación Preuniversitaria/General Media/Bachillerato**  
Pre-university or Upper-Secondary Education

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**Educación Secundaria Básica**  
**Basic (Lower-) Secondary Education**

ages 12 to 14  
3 years, grades 7-9

*Escuelas Secundarias Básicas Urbanas (ESBU)* - Urban  
- external schools, 80% of students  
*Escuelas Secundarias Básicas del Campo (ESBEC)* -  
Rural  
- boarding schools, 20% of students

access to upper-secondary education at a pre-university  
institute or at a polytechnic center/institute/school or  
placement in the work force

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**Educación Preuniversitaria/General Media/Bachillerato**  
**Pre-university or Upper-Secondary Education**

3 years, grades 10-12, ages 15 to 17

**IPU** *Institutos Preuniversitarios Urbanos*  
Urban Pre-university Institutes (enroll about 5% of students)  
**IPUEC** *Institutos Preuniversitarios de el Campo*  
Rural Pre-university Institutes (enroll about 70% of students)

*Institutos Medios Superiores* / Higher Secondary Institutes

Specialized institutes and schools in military, exact, health, and  
pedagogical sciences; in the arts and sports

Credential: *Título de Bachiller* / Title of Secondary School Graduate

access to university studies or to placement in the work force

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**Educación Técnica y Profesional**  
**Technical and Professional Education**

**Medio Básico Profesional**  
 Lower-Secondary Professional or Technical Education

3 years, grades 7-9, after 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
 1 or 2 years after 9<sup>th</sup> grade

*Escuelas Tecnológicas / Technical Schools*  
*Escuelas de Oficios / Apprenticeship Schools*

Program structure

- 17 areas of specialization
- 25% general and basic education
- 75% technical training including practice

qualification: *Obrero Calificado / Skilled Worker*  
 access to upper-secondary technical education

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**Educación Técnica y Profesional**  
**Technical and Professional Education**

**Medio Superior Profesional**  
 Upper-Secondary Professional or Technical Education

3 years, grades 10-12, after 9<sup>th</sup> grade  
 1 or 2 years after 12<sup>th</sup> grade (still secondary education level)

*Institutos Politécnicos / Polytechnic Institutes*  
*Centros Politécnicos / Polytechnic Centers*

program structure

- 55 areas of specialization
- 25% general and basic education
- 75% technical training including practice

qualification: *Técnico Medio / Middle Level Technician*

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**Educación de Adultos**  
**Adult Education**

11. **Educación Obrera y Campesina (EOC)**  
 Education for Workers and Peasants

primary/elementary education level

4 semesters

access to placement in the work force or to  
*Secundaria Obrera y Campesina*

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**Educación de Adultos**  
**Adult Education**

**2. Secundaria Obrera y Campesina (SOC)**

*Lower-Secondary Education for Workers and Peasants*

lower-secondary education level

4 semesters

access to placement in the work force, to *Facultad Obrera y Campesina* or to *Institutos Politécnicos* / Polytechnic Institutes

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**Educación de Adultos**  
**Adult Education**

**3. Facultad Obrera y Campesina (FOC)**

*Faculty for Workers and Peasants*

upper-secondary education level

6 semesters

access to placement in the work force, to Language Schools or to higher education academic or technical programs

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**Formación y Entrenamiento de Profesores**  
**Teacher Training and Upgrading**

Early Childhood, Elementary and Lower-Secondary Teachers

Until early 1990's - Upper-Secondary Education Level

- 4 years at urban schools; 3 years at rural schools

- *Escuelas de Maestros Primarios or Escuelas Normales*

*Maestro Normal / Normal School Teacher*

*Maestro Primario / Elementary Education Teacher*

*Maestro Preescolar / Pre-School Education Teacher*

- *Instituto de Superación Educacional* / Institute for Educational Training

Since 1976 – also university level

- *Institutos Superiores Pedagógicos* / Higher Pedagogical Institutes

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**Formación y Entrenamiento de Profesores**  
**Teacher Training and Upgrading**

**Early Childhood, Elementary and Lower-Secondary Teachers**

Since 1992 – only university level ( 4-5 years)

*Institutos Superiores Pedagógicos / Higher Pedagogical Institutes*

*Centros Universitarios / University Centers*

Early Childhood Education

Elementary Education

Secondary (lower- and upper-) Education

Special Education

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**Formación y Entrenamiento de Profesores**  
**Teacher Training and Upgrading**

**Upper-Secondary Teachers**

Summer Post-secondary In-Service Training (until 1976)

University of Havana

coursework and thesis/graduation report

*Bachiller / upper-secondary graduates*

*escuela normal / normal school graduates*

working teachers

*Título de Profesor / Title of Teacher*

*Institutos Superiores Pedagógicos / Higher Pedagogical Institutes*

*Centros Universitarios / University Centers*

*Título de Licenciado / Title of Licentiate (field)*

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**Formación y Entrenamiento de Profesores**  
**Teacher Training and Upgrading**

**Physical Education Teachers**

*Instituto Superior de Cultura Física / Higher Institute for Physical Education*

**Technical and Professional Education Teachers**

*Institutos Superiores Pedagógicos / Pedagogical Higher Institutes*

*Instituto Superior Pedagógico para la Educación Técnica y Profesional /*

*Pedagogical Higher Institute for Technical and Professional Education*

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**Formación y Entrenamiento de Profesores**  
**Teacher Training and Upgrading**

Higher Education Faculty / Teaching Staff

Qualification:

*Título de Maestría / Master's degree*

*Candidato a Doctor en Ciencias / Candidate to Doctor in Sciences*

*Doctor / Doctoral degree*

Teacher Training Courses and specialized upgrading courses for:  
professionals in various fields  
selected graduate students / graduate teaching assistants

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**Educación Superior**  
**Higher Education**

*Educación Técnica Superior / Higher Technical Education*

2 – 3 years

*Institutos Superiores Politécnicos / Higher Polytechnic Institutes*

*Técnico Superior / Higher Technician*

*Técnico de Nivel Superior / Higher Technician*

access to placement in the work force, to Language Schools or  
to another higher education technical program

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**Educación Superior**  
**Higher Education**

*Licenciatura / Undergraduate Education*

5 years, 6 years (medicine), 4 years (exception)

universities

higher institutes

higher pedagogical institutes

centers of higher education

higher polytechnic institutes

specialized institutions of higher education

*Título de Licenciado / Title of Licentiate*

*Título Profesional / Professional Title in (field of specialization)*

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**Educación Superior  
Higher Education**

*Educación de Postgrado / Graduate Education*

**A. Cursos de Superación Profesional / Professional Upgrading**

*Cursos de Postgrado / Graduate Courses*  
graduate studies not leading to degree  
Certificado

**Diplomado / Graduate**

3 levels, 200 hours per level  
theoretical instruction  
practical work  
industrial internship  
final project

Credits may be transferred into Maestría/Doctorado program.

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**Educación Superior  
Higher Education**

*Educación de Postgrado / Graduate Education*

**B. Postgrado de Formación Académica / Academic Graduate Programs**

*Especialidad de Postgrado / Graduate Specialization*  
1 – 2 years

*Título de Especialista / Specialist Degree*

**Maestría / Master's degree**

2 years  
in-depth study and research  
thesis research, publication, attendance at professional  
conferences

*Título de Maestría / Title of Master (field of study)*

Professional Master or Master in Applied Technology (industry)

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**Educación Superior  
Higher Education**

*Educación de Postgrado / Graduate Education*

**B. Postgrado de Formación Académica / Academic Graduate Programs**

**Doctorado / Doctoral degree**

authorization by the National Commission of Scientific Degrees  
institutions of higher education and scientific institutions

*Candidato a Doctor en Ciencias / Candidate to Doctor in Sciences*

3 – 4 years of active research

required for entry to studies for the Doctor en Ciencias

*Doctor en Ciencias / Doctor in Sciences*

further scientific research

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# **Retrieval / Verification of Documents from Cuba**

**Association of Cuban Civil Engineers in Exile, Miami, FL**  
**Bufete de Servicios Legales Especializados**  
**Calle 23, Esq. A J, Vedado, Ciudad de La Habana, Cuba**  
**Phone: (537) 32-18-13**

**Bufete Internacional**  
**Calle 47, No.815 e/ Santa Ana y Conill, Nuevo Vedado, Ciudad de La Habana, Cuba**  
**Phone: (537) 33-24 -90 or (537) 33-26-97**

**Consultoria Juridica Internacional**  
**Calle 16, no. 314 e/3ra y 5ta Ave; Miramar, Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba**  
**Phone: (537) 33-24 -90 or (537) 33-26-97**

**Embassy of Switzerland / Cuban Interest Section**  
**2630 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW**  
**Washington D.C. 20009**  
**Phone: (202) 797-8518 / (202) 797-8519 / (202) 797-8520**

**National Association of Cuban Lawyers in Exile, Miami, FL**  
**National Association of Cuban Instructors in Exile, Miami, FL**



# STRUCTURE OF THE CUBAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

## Academic Programs

### Graduate Programs (1 to 4 years)

*Doctorado* (Doctorate)  
*Maestría* (Master)  
*Especialista* (Specialist)  
*Diplomado* (Graduate)

## Technical / Professional Education

*Mestrado Profesional*  
 (Professional Master) 1-2 yrs

## Adult Education

### Undergraduate Degree Programs

| Year |  |
|------|--|
| (6)  | <i>Licenciatura</i> (Licentiate)               |
| 5    |  |
| 4    |  |
| 3    |  |
| 2    | <i>Título Profesional</i> (Professional Title) |
| 1    | (4) 5 - 6 years                                |

*Educación Técnica Superior*  
 (Higher Technical Education)  
 3 - 4 years

### Age Grade

|    |    |  |
|----|----|--|
| 17 | 12 | <i>Educación Preuniversitaria or General Media</i> |
| 16 | 11 | Bachillerato                                       |
| 15 | 10 | (Pre-university or Upper-Secondary Education)*     |

*Medio Superior Profesional*  
 (Middle Professional/  
 Technical Education)

### Language Schools (4 semesters)

*Facultad Obrera y Campesina*  
 (Adult Upper-Secondary Education)  
 6 semesters

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 14 | 9 | <i>Educación Secundaria Básica</i><br>(Lower-Secondary Education) |
| 13 | 8 |   |
| 12 | 7 |   |

*Medio Básico Profesional*  
 (Basic Professional/  
 Technical Education)

### Language Schools (4 semesters)

*Secundaria Obrera y Campesina*  
 (Adult Lower-Secondary Education)  
 4 semesters

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 11 | 6 | <i>Educación Primaria</i><br>(Elementary Education) |
| 10 | 5 |   |
| 9  | 4 |   |
| 8  | 3 |   |
| 7  | 2 |   |
| 6  | 1 |   |

*Educación Obrera y Campesina*  
 (Adult Elementary Education)  
 4 semesters

|   |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
| 5 | Pre-School | <i>Educación Preescolar</i> (Pre-School Education) |
|---|------------|--|

|       |          |   |
|-------|----------|---|
| 1 - 4 | Day Care | <i>Educación Infantil</i> (Early Childhood Education) |
|-------|----------|---|

\*Until the early 1990's the Escuelas Normales offered teacher-training programs for pre-school and elementary education teachers at the upper-secondary level of education

# GRADE SCALES

Grade scales use number grades only, letter grades only, descriptive grades only or a combination of them.

| Number Grades | Descriptive Grades                 | Recommended U.S. Grades |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5             | sobresaliente / excellent          | 4.00/A                  |
| 4             | aprovechado / average              | 3.00/B                  |
| 3             | aprobado / pass                    | 2.00/C                  |
| below 3       | suspense or desaprobado / fail     | F                       |
| 5             | excelente / excellent              | 4.00/A                  |
| 4             | bien / good                        | 3.00/B                  |
| 3             | satisfactorio / satisfactory       | 2.00/C                  |
| below 3       | aprobado / pass                    | Pass / Credit           |
|               |                                    | F                       |
| 90 - 100      | sobresaliente / outstanding        | 4.00/A                  |
| 80 - 89       | notable / very good                | 3.67/A-                 |
| 70 - 79       | aprovechado / average              | 3.33/B+                 |
| 60 - 69       | aprobado / pass                    | 2.00/C                  |
| 0 - 59        | suspense or desaprobado / fail     | F                       |
| 90 - 100      | sobresaliente / outstanding        | 4.00/A                  |
| 80 - 89       | aprovechado / average              | 3.00/B                  |
| 70 - 79       | aprobado / pass                    | 2.00/C                  |
| 0 - 69        | suspense or desaprobado / fail     | F                       |
|               | excelente / excellent              | 4.00/A                  |
|               | bien / good                        | 3.00/B                  |
|               | regular                            | 2.00/C                  |
|               | excelente / excellent              | 4.00/A                  |
|               | muy bien / very good               | 3.00/B                  |
|               | bien / good                        | 2.00/C                  |
|               | insuficiente or deficiente / fail  | F                       |
|               | excelente / excellent              | 4.00/A                  |
|               | muy bien / very good               | 3.67/A-                 |
|               | bien / good                        | 3.33/B+                 |
|               | regular                            | 2.00/C                  |
|               | insuficiente / insufficient / fail | F                       |

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: FREDA CLEMENT-WILLIS**

May 2008

### ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:

Master of Business Administration in International Business Candidate (December 2005)

**UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, School of Business, Coral Gables, FL**

Bachelor of Business Administration in Management Information Systems, minor in Computer Science

**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, Miami, Florida**

### SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

**JOSEF SILNY & ASSOCIATES, INC., International Education Consultants**

Office Manager and Foreign Credential Evaluator (1992-1994)

Associate Director for Operations (1995-2002)

Senior Associate Director (2002-present)

### SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

**Chair – NACES-- National Association of Credential Evaluation Services**

(Three consecutive periods--2002-2005)

**Vice Chair – NACES (2001-2002)**

Presenter at various international, national, state and local professional conferences, including NAFSA: Association for International Educators, AACRAO-American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers, and EAIE-European Association for International Education

### LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY:

Bilingual English and Spanish

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: M. LOU NUNES, Ph.D.**

Since the 1970's, Dr. Nunes has worked in international education as senior credentials evaluator, translator, international education consultant, international admissions officer, ESL instructor and director. Other professional activities include: NAFSA Trainer Corps (Advanced Trainer), NACES Secretary, 2000-2002; author of PIER publication Country Study: Brazil, 2004; 47th Annual NAFSA Conference LAC; AACRAO/EDGE Project author of Brazil, Angola (2006), Cuba, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissao, Mozambique, and São Tomé Príncipe (2007); presenter in various international, national, state, and local professional conferences, including NAFSA, AACRAO and EAIE. Places of work include Academic Evaluation Services, Inc., Tampa, FL; AACRAO; LSAC-Law School Admission Council; SpanTran Educational Services, Inc.; Hillsborough County School District; Northwood University; Louisiana State University; Bowling Green State University; Our Lady of Mercy School (American Catholic School), Rio de Janeiro, RJ; Casa Thomas Jefferson (USAID/USIA/USIS Binational/Bicultural Center), Brasília, D.F.; Centro de Estudo Universitário de Brasília, Brasília, D.F.; American School Rio de Janeiro, RJ.

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