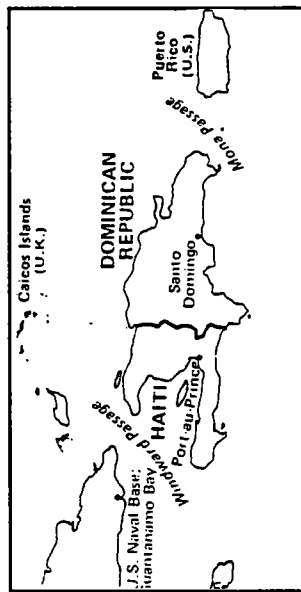


Dominican Republic

Despite the Constitution of 1966, which guaranteed free education at all levels, scarce financial resources have limited educational opportunities. The literacy rate is 68 percent in a population of about 7 million. Spanish is the official language. Education at all primary and secondary schools is supervised by the Secretariat of State for Education, Fine Arts, and Culture. Both private and public education is permitted by law. Most private schools are church-operated, but they must conform to government standards regarding curricula and examinations even though they are not state-funded. Education is compulsory for six years from ages 6 to 14. The secondary system is also of six years' duration, with two

different systems in operation. The "traditional" plan offers a two-year intermediate program followed by four years of secondary school. In 1970, a secondary school reform plan was enacted, calling for four years



of basic secondary education followed by two years of specialization. The new scheme, however, proved unpopular and has not widely supplanted the traditional plan. Higher education is supervised loosely by the *Consejo Nacional de Educación Superior/CONES* (National Council of Higher Education). Private institutions proliferated in the mid-1960s. There are now one public (*Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo/USAD*) and 18 private universities and institutes. All tertiary education is at university level. Higher institutions are autonomous and have no uniform standards regarding admission, grading or examinations. Most Dominicans go abroad for graduate study.

Credential Name	Entrance Requirement	Length of Program	Type of Program	Gives Access
Level: Educación Media (Secondary Education, "Traditional Plan") or Ciclo Superior (Upper Secondary Cycle, "Reform Plan") Following 6 years of primary education.				
Traditional Plan (2 + 4 years) <i>Bachillerato en (specialization)</i>	completion of <i>estudios intermedios</i>	4 years	academic, vocational/technical	further study
Reform Plan (4 + 2 years) <i>Bachillerato en ciencias y letras</i>	completion of <i>estudios intermedios</i>	2 years	academic	further study
<i>Bachillerato técnico-profesional</i>	completion of <i>estudios intermedios</i>	2 years	technical	further study
<i>Título de maestro normal primario</i>	completion of <i>estudios intermedios</i>	3 years	teacher training	employ. as primary school teacher/further study
Level: Educación Superior (Higher Education)				
<i>Técnico en (specialization)</i>	variable	2-3 years	technical	employment/further study
<i>Licenciatura/Título Profesional</i>	<i>Bachillerato, Título de maestro primaria</i>	4-7 years	academic	further study
<i>Ingeniero</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	5-6 years	professional	further study
<i>Arquitecto</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	6 years	professional	further study
<i>Doctor en medicina</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	4.5-7 years	professional	further study
<i>Maestría</i> (No doctoral programs are available)	<i>Licenciatura</i>	2 years + thesis	academic	further study