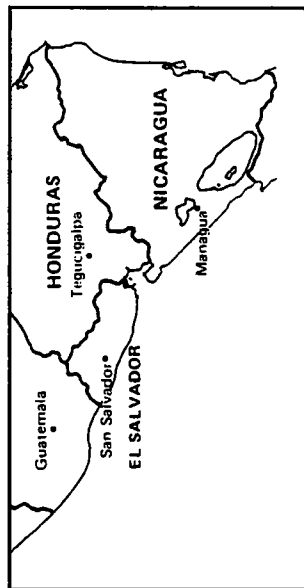


El Salvador

With a population of about 5.5 million, El Salvador is the most densely populated country in Central America. Predominantly agricultural, its rural population has a literacy rate of 40 percent as compared to 62 percent in urban areas. The population is homogenous and mainly Mestizo, the native Indians having been almost entirely assimilated. Spanish is the language of instruction. Nine years of basic education (*ciclo básico*) are divided into three cycles. Six years are compulsory from age seven. At the upper secondary cycle, nine specializations are offered, including academic, administration, agriculture, arts,

health studies and nursing, hotel management and tourism, industrial, navigation and fishing, and vocational studies.



ational studies. The 1950 constitution declared education to be a function of the state, and the Ministry of Education is responsible for primary through tertiary education. Postsecondary education is offered at 32 universities and at nine technical institutes. The one public university, the *Universidad Nacional de El Salvador*, is autonomous, was founded in 1841 and was closed by government order for four years from 1980 in the midst of the 12-year Civil War. During this closure, most of the private universities were founded.

Credential Name	Entrance Requirement	Length of Program	Type of Program	Gives Access to
Level: <i>Ciclo Diversificado</i> (Upper Secondary Cycle) Following 6 years of primary and three years of lower secondary education.				
<i>Bachillerato</i> (specialization)	<i>Diploma de Educación Media</i>	3 years	academic, commercial, vocational/technical	employment/further study
Level: <i>Educación Superior</i> (Higher Education)				
Non-university				
<i>Técnico en</i> (specialization)	<i>Bachillerato</i> + entrance examination	2-3 years	technical/professional	employment/further study
University				
<i>Técnico</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i> + entrance examination	3 years	technical/professional	employment/further study
<i>Profesorado</i>	<i>Técnico de Profesor</i>	3 years	teacher training	further study
<i>Licenciatura/título profesional*</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i> + entrance examination	4-5 years	academic/professional	further study
<i>Arquitecto</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	5.5 years	academic/professional	further study
<i>Ingeniero</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	5-5.5 years	academic/professional	further study
<i>Cirujano Dental</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	5-5.5 years	academic/professional	further study
<i>Médico y Cirujano</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	7 years	academic/professional	further study
<i>Maestría</i>	<i>Licenciatura</i>	2 years + thesis	academic	further study
(No doctoral programs are available)				

*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.