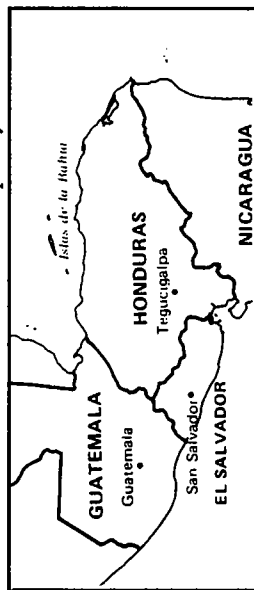


Guatemala

The basic educational system is comprised of a six-year primary cycle, which is free and compulsory, and a five- to six-year secondary cycle. However, almost 70 percent of the population of over 9 million is rural and often served by overcrowded, one-room schoolhouses offering only three years of primary education. As a result, attendance at primary level is only about 35 percent. About 48 percent of the population is literate. The language of instruction is Spanish. However, half of the population is Indian, speaking 20 languages, and about 50 percent of this Indian population is not conversant with Spanish or lives in

remote areas with no access to schools. Private schools are prestigious and enroll about half of secondary level students. The Ministry of Education formulates and directs educational policy at all lev-



els. The amount of money spent on education is very low. Higher education is offered at one autonomous public university, the *Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala*, founded in 1676, and at four private universities founded between 1966 and 1972: *Universidad Mariano Gálvez de Guatemala*, *Universidad Rafael Landívar*, *Universidad del Valle de Guatemala* and *Universidad Francisco Marroquín*. Non-university higher education also is available at *institutos profesionales* offering short-cycle programs. Only about six percent of the eligible age group participates in higher education.

Credential Name	Entrance Requirement	Length of Program	Type of Program	Gives Access to
Level: <i>Ciclo de Educación Diversificado</i> (Upper Secondary Cycle) Following 6 years of primary and 3 years of lower secondary education.				
<i>Bachillerato</i>	<i>Diploma de Ciclo Básico</i>	2-4 years.	academic	further study
<i>Título de (specialization)</i>	<i>Diploma de Ciclo Básico</i>	2-3 years	vocational	employ./further study
<i>Maestro de educación</i>	<i>Diploma de Ciclo Básico</i>	2 years	teaching	employment at pre-primary/primary level/further study
<i>Perito</i>	<i>Diploma de Ciclo Básico</i>	3 years	vocational	further study
<i>Secretaria</i>	<i>Diploma de Ciclo Básico</i>	2 years	vocational	further study
Level: <i>Educación Superior</i> (Higher Education)				
Non-university				
<i>Diplomado/Técnico en (specialization)</i>	<i>Bachillerato or título de (specialization)</i>	2-3 years	technical/professional	employ./further study
University				
<i>Baccalaureus</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	3.5-4 years	academic	further study
<i>Licenciatura/título profesional/</i>	<i>Bachillerato + admissions exam</i>	4-7 years	academic/professional	further study
<i>Abogado</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	5 years	professional	further study
<i>Ingeniero</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	5-6 years	professional	further study
<i>Arquitecto</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	5-6 years	professional	further study
<i>Médico y Cirujano</i>	<i>Bachillerato</i>	6-7 years	professional	further study
<i>Maestría</i>	<i>Licenciatura/Título profesional</i>	1-2 years + thesis	academic	further study
<i>Doctorado</i>	<i>Licenciatura/Título profesional</i>	2 yrs. minimum + thesis	academic	further study