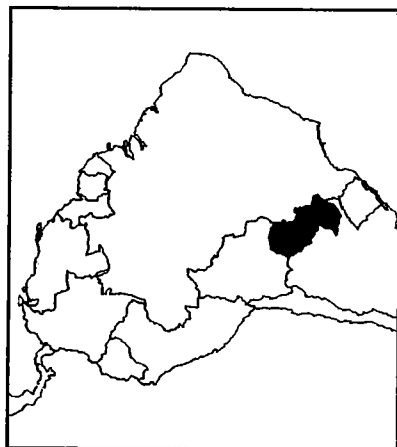


Paraguay



A Spanish colony from 1535 to 1816, Paraguay had a system of primary education in 1598. The 1967 Constitution guaranteed the "opportunity to learn" to all, free of charge. The population of over 4.5 million is about 81% literate. This is the only Latin American country where the indigenous language, *Guarani*, is an official language as widely used as Spanish. Education is compulsory and free at primary level for six years, between ages 7 and 14. Almost all secondary schools are located in urban areas. Sec-

ondary education is divided into two three-year basic and diversified cycles. Technical-vocational education is offered at secondary level. There are also two-year agricultural schools at upper secondary level. Private education is important at all levels, and is regulated by the government. Education is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Worship, and is financed by the national government. At secondary level, however, a significant portion of the costs are borne by students. Higher education is offered at two uni-

versities, the public *Universidad Nacional de Asunción* founded in 1890, and the private *Universidad Católica "Nuestra Señora de la Asunción,"* founded in 1960. In recent years, an entire "parasystem" (paralleling, but outside of, the official system) of private tertiary institutions has evolved, offering shorter programs in business and technical fields. Their degrees do not have official recognition, but satisfy the needs of the economy.

Credential Name

Entrance Requirement

Length of Program

Type of Program

Gives Access to

Level: *Ciclo Diversificado* (Diversified Cycle) following 6 years of primary education and 3 years of lower secondary education

Bachillerato:
en Humanidades y Ciencias
Comercial
Agropecuario
Técnico Industrial

Completion of *Ciclo básico*

3 years

academic/commercial/
technical

further study

Level: *Educación Superior* (Higher Education)

Non-university

Profesor de Enseñanza Primaria
Profesor de Enseñanza Secundaria
Profesor de Educación Física
Título de Enfermera
Título de Obstetra

Bachillerato
Bachillerato
Bachillerato
Bachillerato
Bachillerato

2 years
4 years
2-3 years
3 years
3 years

teacher training
teacher training
teacher training
nursing training
nursing training

further study
further study
further study
further study
further study

University

Título de Técnico Superior or
Título de Técnico
Licenciatura/Título Profesional
Ingeniero
Médico
Arquitecto
Abogado

Bachillerato

2-3 years

academic/technical

further study

Licenciatura/Título Profesional
Ingeniero
Médico
Arquitecto
Abogado

Bachillerato
Bachillerato
Bachillerato
Bachillerato
Bachillerato

3-6 years
5-6 years
6 years
6 years
6 years
min. 2 years + dissert.

academic/prof.
academic/prof.
academic/prof.
academic/prof.
academic/prof.
academic

further study
further study
further study
further study
further study

Doctorado

Licenciatura/Título Prof.