

Language of Instruction: English
Documents Issued in: English
Documents Issued by: Secondary: Institutions; Uganda National Examinations Board
 Postsecondary: Institutions
School Year: Secondary: January to December
 Postsecondary: October to July
Compulsory Schooling: Grade 7, Ages 6-13
Length of School: Primary: 7 years
 Secondary: 4 years
 Pre-university: 2 years

Ugandan Credentials

Credential	Years of Study	Entrance Requirements	Comments	IERF Recommendations
Primary				
Primary (School) Leaving Certificate	7	Age 6	<p>End of compulsory education.</p> <p>Represents completion of primary education.</p> <p>Issued by Uganda National Examinations Board (NEB) since 1980; previously issued by Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sports.</p> <p>Primarily used for secondary school selection purposes.</p> <p>Grants access to secondary studies.</p>	Completion of 7th grade
Secondary				
Uganda Junior Technical Certificate-UJTC	(7) + 3	Primary (School) Leaving Certificate	<p>Issued by Uganda National Examinations Board (NEB).</p> <p>Offered at technical colleges and agricultural/animal husbandry institutions.</p> <p>Programs are primarily practical training oriented.</p> <p>Grants access to employment and further technical and vocational studies.</p>	Completion of 10th grade

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Credential	Years of Study	Entrance Requirements	Comments	IERF Recommendations
East African Certificate of Education–EACE	(7) + 4	Primary (School) Leaving Certificate	<p>Represents completion of secondary education.</p> <p>Issued by the East African Examinations Council (EAEC) from 1972 to 1980.</p> <p>Grants access to pre-university and tertiary studies.</p>	Senior high school graduation
Ugandan Certificate of Education–UCE	(7) + 4	Primary (School) Leaving Certificate	<p>Represents completion of secondary education.</p> <p>Issued by Uganda National Examinations Board (NEB) since 1980.</p> <p>Grants access to pre-university and tertiary studies.</p>	Senior high school graduation
Craft I Certificate	(10 to 11) + 2	UJTC/EACE/UCE	<p>Issued by Uganda National Examinations Board (NEB).</p> <p>Includes fields such as carpentry, tailoring, radio servicing, bricklaying and concreting, and leather tanning.</p> <p>Students need to have completed at least 2 years of training to register for the Craft I examination.</p> <p>Grants access to employment and further technical and vocational studies.</p>	Senior high school graduation (vocational)
National Certificate	(10 to 11) + 2	Craft I Certificate/ EACE/ UCE	<p>Issued by Uganda National Examinations Board (NEB).</p> <p>Includes fields such as marketing, secretarial studies, accounting and finance management and forestry.</p> <p>Grants access to employment and further technical and vocational studies.</p>	Senior high school graduation
Grade III Teacher's Certificate	(11) + 2	EACE/UCE	<p>Offered at national teacher training colleges.</p> <p>Program includes academic subjects, education studies and supervised teaching practice.</p> <p>Eligible to teach at the lower primary level (grades 1-4) in Uganda.</p> <p>Grants access to employment and tertiary studies.</p>	Senior high school graduation

Credential	Years of Study	Entrance Requirements	Comments	IERF Recommendations
East African Advanced Certificate of Education-EAACE	(11) + 2	EACE	<p>Represents completion of pre-university education.</p> <p>Issued by the East African Examinations Council (EAEC) from 1972 to 1980.</p> <p>Grants access to tertiary studies.</p>	Up to 8 semester credits of undergraduate coursework for each passing grade
Ugandan Advanced Certificate of Education-UACE	(11) + 2	EACE/UCE	<p>Represents completion of pre-university education.</p> <p>Issued by Uganda National Examinations Board (NEB) since 1980.</p> <p>Grants access to tertiary studies.</p>	Up to 8 semester credits of undergraduate coursework for each passing grade
Craft II Certificate	(12 to 13) + 1	Craft I Certificate	<p>Issued by Uganda National Examinations Board (NEB).</p> <p>Includes fields such as carpentry, tailoring, radio servicing, bricklaying and concreting, and leather tanning.</p> <p>Grants access to employment and further technical and vocational studies.</p>	No academic credit recommended
Postsecondary				
Grade IV Teacher's Certificate	(13) + 1	Grade III Teacher's Certificate	<p>Represents 1 year of postsecondary education.</p> <p>Offered at national teacher training colleges.</p> <p>Program includes academic subjects, education studies and supervised teaching practice.</p> <p>Eligible to teach at the upper primary level (grades 5-7) in Uganda.</p> <p>Grants access to employment and further tertiary studies.</p>	Up to 30 semester credits of undergraduate coursework
Certificate	(11) + 1 to 2	EACE/UCE	<p>Represents a minimum of 1 year of postsecondary education.</p> <p>Offered at universities.</p> <p>Includes fields such as theology, fine arts and management.</p> <p>Grants access to further tertiary studies.</p>	Up to 30 semester credits of undergraduate coursework for each year of full-time study

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Credential	Years of Study	Entrance Requirements	Comments	IERF Recommendations
Diploma	(11) + 2 to 3	EACE/UCE	<p>Represents a minimum of 2 years of postsecondary education.</p> <p>Offered at universities.</p> <p>Includes fields such as music, drama, dance, librarianship, education, interior design, and management.</p> <p>Grants access to further tertiary studies.</p>	Up to 30 semester credits of undergraduate coursework for each year of full-time study
National Diploma/ Ordinary Diploma/ Ordinary Technician's Diploma	(12 to 13) + 2	EAAACE/UACE/Craft II Certificate/National Certificate	<p>Represents 2 years of postsecondary education.</p> <p>Issued by Uganda National Examinations Board (Ordinary Diploma) or by institutions (National Diploma and Ordinary Technician's Diploma).</p> <p>Offered at technical, commercial or vocational institutions and polytechnics.</p> <p>Includes fields such as architectural drawing and draughtsmanship, water engineering, accountancy, and secretarial studies.</p> <p>Grants access to employment, further technical and vocational studies and further tertiary studies.</p>	Up to 30 semester credits of undergraduate coursework for each year of full-time study
Diploma in Education/Grade V Teacher's Certificate	(13) + 2 or (14) + 3	EAAACE/UACE/Grade III Teacher's Certificate/Grade IV Teacher's Certificate	<p>Represents a minimum of 3 years of postsecondary education.</p> <p>Offered at national teacher training colleges.</p> <p>Students entering with EAAACE/UACE or Grade III Teacher's Certificate follow a two-year curriculum whereas those with Grade IV Teacher's Certificate can upgrade their credential by following a three-year program.</p> <p>Eligible to teach at the secondary level (grades 7-11) in Uganda.</p> <p>Grants access to employment and further tertiary studies.</p>	Up to 30 semester credits of undergraduate coursework for each year of full-time study

Credential	Years of Study	Entrance Requirements	Comments	IERF Recommendations
Higher Diploma/ Higher National Diploma/Higher Technician's Diploma	(14 to 15) + 2	National Diploma/ Ordinary Diploma/Ordinary Technician's Diploma	<p>Represents a minimum of 4 years of postsecondary education.</p> <p>Issued by Uganda National Examinations Board (Higher Diploma) or by institutions (Higher National Diploma and Higher Technician's Diploma).</p> <p>Offered at technical, commercial or vocational institutions and polytechnics.</p> <p>Includes fields such as mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and civil engineering (construction).</p> <p>Diploma holders may receive advanced standing towards bachelor's degree programs in related fields.</p> <p>Grants access to employment and further tertiary studies.</p>	Up to 30 semester credits of undergraduate coursework for each year of full-time study
Bachelor of Arts/ Science/ Bachelor of...	(13) + 3	EAACE/UACE	<p>Represents 4 years of postsecondary education.</p> <p>Higher Diploma/Higher National Diploma/Higher Technician's Diploma holders may receive advanced standing towards bachelor's degree programs in related fields.</p> <p>Grants access to further tertiary studies.</p>	BA/BS/Bachelor of...
Bachelor of Laws- LLB	(13) + 3	EAACE/UACE	<p>Represents 4 years of postsecondary education.</p> <p>First professional degree in law and the academic qualification to practice law in Uganda.</p> <p>Grants access to employment and further tertiary studies.</p>	Bachelor's degree with the content of study relating to law in Uganda
Bachelor of Arts/Science in Education/ Bachelor of Education	(13) + 3	EAACE/UACE	<p>Represents 4 years of postsecondary education.</p> <p>Eligible to teach at the secondary and pre-university level (grades 7-13) in Uganda.</p> <p>Grants access to employment and further tertiary studies.</p>	BA/BS in Education

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Credential	Years of Study	Entrance Requirements	Comments	IERF Recommendations
Bachelor of Nursing/ Agriculture/ Forestry/ Technology/ Veterinary Science	(13) + 4	EAAACE/UACE	Represents 5 years of postsecondary education. Grants access to further tertiary studies.	BS/Bachelor of...
Bachelor of Engineering	(13) + 4	EAAACE/UACE	Represents 5 years of postsecondary education. Grants access to further tertiary studies.	BS in (field) Engineering
(Postgraduate) Certificate/Diploma in Education	(16) + 1	Bachelor's degree	Represents 5 years of postsecondary education. Aimed at students who have a bachelor's degree in non-teaching specific areas of study. Eligible to teach at the secondary and pre-university levels (grades 7-13) in Uganda. Grants access to employment and further tertiary studies.	Completion of a teacher certification program (post-baccalaureate)
Postgraduate Diploma	(16 to 18) + 1	Bachelor's degree	Represents a minimum of 5 years of postsecondary education. Grants access to further tertiary studies.	Approximately 24 semester credits of graduate coursework
Master of Arts/ Science/ Master of...	(16 to 18) + 1.5 to 3	Bachelor's degree	Represents a minimum of 5.5 years of postsecondary education. Requires completion of coursework and comprehensive examination or research-based thesis or a combination of the two. Grants access to further tertiary studies.	MA/MS/Master of...
Bachelor of Pharmacy	(13) + 5	EAAACE/UACE	Represents 6 years of postsecondary education. First professional degree in pharmacy and the academic qualification for practicing pharmacy in Uganda. Grants access to employment and further tertiary studies.	Comparable to PharmD

Credential	Years of Study	Entrance Requirements	Comments	IERF Recommendations
Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery-MBChB	(13) + 5	EAAACE/UACE	<p>Represents 6 years of postsecondary education.</p> <p>First professional degree in medicine and academic qualification for practicing medicine in Uganda.</p> <p>Grants access to employment and further tertiary studies.</p>	Comparable to MD
Bachelor of Dental Surgery/Bachelor of Dentistry	(13) + 5	EAAACE/UACE	<p>Represents 6 years of postsecondary education.</p> <p>First professional degree in dentistry and academic qualification for practicing dentistry in Uganda.</p> <p>Grants access to employment and further tertiary studies.</p>	Comparable to DDS
Doctor of Medicine-MD	(18) + 1	MBChB	<p>Represents 7 years of postsecondary education.</p> <p>Grants access to further tertiary studies.</p>	Advanced professional specialization in medicine
Doctor of Philosophy	(16 to 17) + 3 to 5	Master's degree	<p>Represents a minimum of 7 years of postsecondary education.</p> <p>Requires defense of a research-based dissertation.</p>	PhD

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Grading Scales

Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education	IERF Suggested U.S. Equivalents
A	A+ = 4.00
B	A = 4.00
C	B = 3.00
D	C+ = 2.30
E	C = 2.00
F	F = 0.00

Makerere University	IERF Suggested U.S. Equivalents
A 80 - 100.0% 5.0	A = 4.00
B+ 75 - 79.9% 4.5	B+ = 3.30
B 70 - 74.9% 4.0	B = 3.00
B- 65 - 69.9% 3.5	B- = 2.70
C+ 60 - 64.9% 3.0	C+ = 2.30
C 55 - 59.9% 2.5	C = 2.00
C- 50 - 54.9% 2.0	C- = 1.70
D+ 45 - 49.9% 1.5	D+ = 1.30
D 40 - 44.9% 1.0	D = 1.00
D- 35 - 39.9% 0.5	D- = 0.70
F Below - 35.0% 0.0	F = 0.00

Makerere University-Degree Classification	IERF Suggested U.S. Equivalents
80 - 100% Class One	A = 4.00
60 - 79% Class Two (Upper Division)	A-/B+ = 3.50
Class Two (Lower Division)	B = 3.00
50 - 59% Class Three	C+ = 2.30

Note: Grading scales vary from institution to institution and by historical timeframe. Most transcripts provide a grading scale and procedures.

Resources

Damtew, Teferra, and Philip G. Altbach, eds. *African Higher Education: An International Reference Handbook*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2003. Print.

Devender, V. Martha. *Online Guide to Education Systems around the World: Uganda*. NAFSA: Association of International Educators. April 2009. Web. 30 Aug. 2010.

Electronic Database for Global Education. Version 1.0. American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), 2004-08. Online database. 12 Aug. 2010.

International Association of Universities. *Guide to Higher Education in Africa*. 5th ed. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. Print.

International Association of Universities. *World Higher Education Database Online*. Palgrave MacMillan, 2009. Online database. 16 Aug. 2010.

Makerere University, Uganda, n.d. 12 Sept. 2010.

Ministry of Education, Uganda. n.d. Web. 31 Aug. 2010.

National Council for Higher Education, Uganda. n.d. Web. 1 Sept. 2010.

Uganda National Examinations Board, Uganda. n.d. Web. 31 Aug. 2010.

UK NARIC. National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom, n.d. Online database. 12 Aug. 2010.

Compiled by Ujjaini Sahasrabudhe, www.ierf.org, August 2010.