

The Education System in Cape Verde

The Basic Law of the Educational System (Decree-Law No. 2/2010, of the 7th of May, subsequently amended, in some of its articles, by the Legislative Decree No. 13/2018 of the 7th of December), establishes the framework of the education system. The educational system comprises the subsystems of pre-school education, school education and out-of-school education. School education covers the subsystems of basic, secondary, and higher education. Out-of-school education encompasses literacy programmes, basic education for young people and adults and vocational training. Pre-school education, as a propaedeutic phase, is universal and compulsory, and is aimed at children from the year they reach 4 years of age. The universal coverage of pre-school education implies that the state has the duty to guarantee conditions and measures that allow the access of all children to pre-school education. Basic education is universal, compulsory, and free for eight years and comprises two consecutive cycles of four years each. The last two years of basic education are years of transition to secondary education and, consequently, years of initiation of school, vocational and professional guidance that provides options for further education. Secondary education comprises a single four-year cycle, from the 9th to the 12th year of schooling, and is structured in two different routes, i.e. general and technical. Having completed the secondary education, a student can pursue higher education, or an initial or complementary vocational training course.

National Qualifications System (NQS)

The National Qualifications System was officially created in 2010, through Decree-Law No. 20/2010, of the 14th of June, with approval of the new general legal regime established by Decree-Law No. 4/2018, the 10th of January, and covers, in addition to the National Qualifications Catalog - NQC (Decree-Law No. 66/2010), the National Qualifications Framework - NQF (Decree-Law No. 65/2010), as instruments that promote the development and integration of offers technical-professional training that allows articulating and systematizing competence references and modular training programs, common to technical education, vocational training and higher professional education.

Conditions of Access to Higher Education

Admission to each higher education institution / course, under the general regime, is subject to quantitative limitations resulting from the number of places fixed annually. To apply for enrolment and registration at a higher education institution, under the general regime, a student must comply with the following requirements:

- Hold a secondary education course or a legally equivalent qualification.
- Make proof of ability to attend the higher education course she or he is applying to.

Higher Education Organization

Cape Verdean higher education comprises university education and polytechnic higher education. University education is taught at universities and in non-integrated university schools. Polytechnic education is provided at polytechnic institutes and higher education schools specializing in the fields of technology, arts, and education, among others. Private higher education institutions require prior recognition by the Higher Education Regulatory Agency (ARES). Universities and university institutes confer bachelor, master and doctoral degrees and diplomas of higher vocational studies while polytechnic institutions confer the degree of bachelor and diplomas of higher vocational studies (DESP).

Master and doctoral degrees are awarded only by university institutions. The cycle of higher vocational studies (CESP) leading to granting of the DESP is between three and four semesters.

The cycle of studies leading to the bachelor's degree lasts between six and eight curricular semesters.

The cycle of studies leading to the master's degree lasts between three and four curricular semesters and it comprises a specialization course and a presentation of an original thesis or a final internship report.

To apply for a master's degree, a candidate must hold a bachelor's degree. In case of holders of foreign higher education degrees these must be recognized as meeting the requirements of bachelor's degree by a statutory scientific body of the higher education institution to which the candidate intends to apply.

The doctoral degree is awarded by a university institution after the elaboration and defence of an original dissertation (doctoral dissertation).

In order to apply for doctoral studies, a candidate must hold a master's degree, or its legal equivalent, as well as show an educational, scientific and professional curriculum duly recognized as attesting her or his capacity to carry out doctoral studies by a statutory scientific body of the higher education institution to which the candidate intends to apply.

Evaluation system

The final grade of a bachelor's degree is given in the range between 10 and 20 of a numerical scale from 0 to 20.

The final grade of a master's degree is given in the range between 10 and 20 of a numerical scale from 0 to 20.

The final classification of a doctoral degree is awarded in terms established by the regulatory standards referred to in article 42 of the RJGDES, of the Decree-Law 22/2014, of the 7th of August.

Cape Verdean Higher Education System

