

## SOUTH AFRICA

In [South Africa](#), the grading system used in secondary schools until 2008 (when the education minister implemented Outcomes Based Education or OBE curriculum) was as follows:


- Code 7 (A+ Symbol): 80 - 100%
- Code 6 (A Symbol): 70 - 79%
- Code 5 (B Symbol): 60 - 69%
- Code 4 (C Symbol): 50 - 59%
- Code 3 (D Symbol): 40 - 49%
- Code 2 (E Symbol): 30 - 39%
- Code 1 (F Symbol): 0 - 29%

The OBE system, when in its experimental stages, originally used a scale from 1 - 4 (a pass being a 3 and a '1st class pass' being above 70%), but this system was considered far too coarse and replaced by a scale from 1 to 7.

For the final standard exams, a 'normal pass' is given for an average mark 50%-59%, and a distinction is given for an average of 80% or more.


Most universities follow a model based on the British system. Thus, at the University of Cape Town and the University of South Africa (UNISA), the percentages are calibrated as follows: a 1st class pass is given for 75% and above, a second (division one) for 70 - 74%, a second (division two) for 60%-69%, and a third for 50 - 59%. Any lower than 40% is a fail. The University of the Witwatersrand considers an A to be 75% and above.

source: Department of Basic Education SA <https://www.education.gov.za/>




## EDUCATION IN SOUTH AFRICA


### QUICK FACTS




**Population**  
55,600,000  
(2016, government census)




**Compulsory Education**  
Grade 9



**Language of Instruction**  
11 official languages: English, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Xhosa, Swati, and Zulu



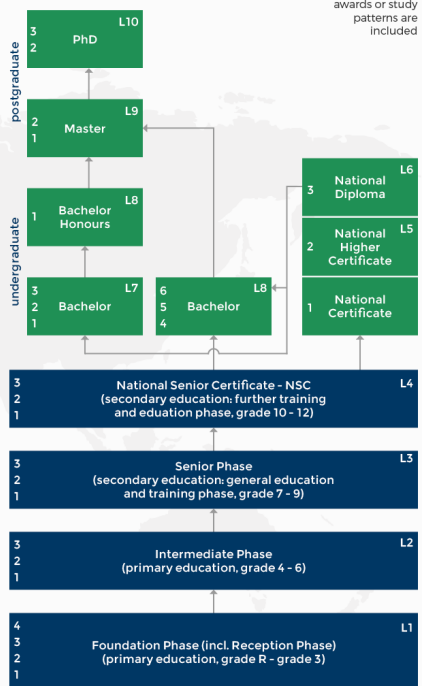
**Academic Year**  
February - November at universities



### GRADING SCALE & U.S. EQUIVALENT

Higher Education Grading Scale	
Scale	U.S. Grade Equivalent
75-100	A
70-74	A-
60-69	B
50-59	C
0-49	F

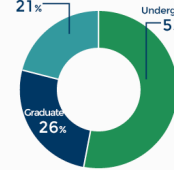
### EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM



**Note:** Not all awards or study patterns are included

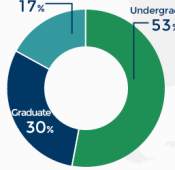
### NUMBER OF SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES

**2014/2015**  
Total: 1,838



Source: IIE Open Doors Data, 2014/2015

**2015/2016**  
Total: 1,813



Source: IIE Open Doors Data, 2015/2016

### WES DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

Required Documents
<b>Secondary Education</b>
External examination results for the <i>Senior Certificate</i> sent directly by UMALUSI.
<b>Higher Education</b>
Academic transcripts for all programs of study - sent directly by the institutions attended.
Photocopies of all degree certificates - submitted by the applicant.

wenr.wes.org

<https://wenr.wes.org/2017/05/education-south-africa>