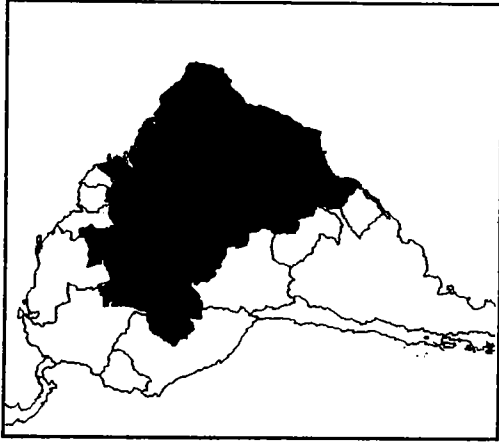


Brazil



The largest country in South America, and the 5th largest country in the world, Brazil has a population of about 154 million. Portuguese is the official language, a legacy of rule by Portugal from about 1500 to 1889. The last major reform of the education system took place in 1971, when primary education was extended to eight years, from ages 7-14, and made compulsory. In reality, compulsory education remains unenforceable because of the continued isolation of many areas and a large migratory population. The literacy rate is about 78%. The Federal Government regulates higher education and gives financial assistance to the 26 states, which control primary and secondary schools. Technical and vocational education is offered from primary school. Public education is free at all levels, but is of such poor quality at primary and secondary level that wealthy families usually send their children to private institutions. Higher education is offered at *universidades*, *escolas isoladas* (isolated schools offering one field of study), and *federações de escolas* (federations of isolated schools). Following a 1968 law calling for a massive expansion of the tertiary system, the private system grew tremendously.

More than 900 higher institutions now exist, many operating without proper government supervision. In general, private institutions at tertiary level have much poorer academic reputations than public institutions. Because access to public institutions is so difficult and limited, however, about 70 percent of all students study at private higher institutions. Graduate education is offered in two types of programs: *sensu stricto* (strict sense), leading to the *Mestrado* and *Doutorado* degrees, and *sensu lato* (wide sense) programs leading to a certificate in a professional specialization.

Credential Name

Entrance Requirement

Length of Program

Type of Program

Gives Access to

Level: Segundo Grau (Secondary Education) following 8 years of primary school

Certificado de Conclusão de 2º Grau
Certificado de Auxiliar Técnico
Dip. de Técnico de 2º Grau
Dip. de Professor do Ensino de 1º Grau

Certificado de 1º Grau
Certificado de 1º Grau
Certificado de 1º Grau
Certificado de 1º Grau

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

academic
 technical
 technical
 teacher training

further study
 further study
 further study
 further study

Level: Educação Superior (Higher Education)

Licenciatura, Bacharel or Título Profissional

Professor
Cirurgião Dentista
Arquiteto
Engenheiro
Doutor em Medicina

Certificado de Conclusão de 2º Grau
 + usually the *concurso vestibular**

3-6 years

academic/professional

further study

Especialista

Mestrado

Doutorado

Licenciatura, Bacharel or Título Profissional
Licenciatura, Bacharel or Título Profissional

academic

further study

* The *concurso vestibular* is an university matriculation examination, the results of which are usually shown on transcripts.