



In 1830, Chile became the first Latin American country to establish a system of public education. In the last 30 years, education has been shaped by ideological struggles between the political left and far right. In 1964, under the Christian Democrats, the primary and secondary cycles were changed to eight and four years, respectively, and access greatly expanded. A rightist military regime seized power in 1973, replacing the goal of "university for all" with a meritocratic view of education, and purging higher institutions of leftist activists. State financial support fell from 1.3% of the G.N.P. in 1970 to .05% by 1989. Private institutions were

encouraged at all levels, while the state provided free education only at primary level. Secondary education is offered in two streams: general education in *liceos* (state secondary schools) and *colegios* (private secondary schools) and technical-vocational education at technical schools. The Ministry of Education is the highest authority; 13 Regional Secretariats are responsible for the institutions within their jurisdictions. Before 1980, there were eight universities and two professional institutes. Higher education now is offered at 60 universities, 72 *institutos profesionales* and 300 *centros de formación técnica* (centers of technical training).

Because of the tremendous proliferation of private higher institutions, an accreditation system was put in place in 1990 to counter complaints that too many unregulated institutions, lacking qualified faculty, libraries and other resources, were being established. Only the universities may award "protected" titles in these professions: agronomy, architecture, biochemistry, civil engineering, commercial engineering, dentistry, forestry engineering, medicine, psychology, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine. While law also is studied only at the universities, the *título de abogado* (title of lawyer) is awarded by the Supreme Court.

Credential Name

Entrance Requirement

Length of Program

Type of Program

Gives Access to

Level: *Educación Media* (Secondary Education) following 8 years of compulsory primary education

Licencia de Educación Media Secundaria
Licencia de Educación Media Técnica/Profesional

Certificado de Educación Básica
Certificado de Educación Básica

4 years
 4-5 years +
 internship

academic
 technical-vocational

further study
 further study

Level: *Educación Superior* (Higher Education)

Non-university
Grado de Técnico de Nivel Superior
Título de Técnico de Nivel Superior
Título profesional

Licencia de Educación Media
Licencia de Educación Media
Licencia de Educación Media

2 years
 2-4 years
 2-4 years

academic/technical
 academic/technical
 academic/technical

employment
 further study
 further study

University

*Licenciatura/Título Profesional**
Farmacéutico
Cirujano Dentista
Ingeniero
Médico Cirujano

Licencia de Educación Media
Licencia de Educación Media
Licencia de Educación Media
Licencia de Educación Media
Licencia de Educación Media
Licenciatura/Título

5-7 years
 5.5-6 years
 5 years
 5-6 years
 7 years
 1 year + thesis
 2 yrs. + thesis
 3-5 years
 + dissertation

academic/professional
 academic/professional
 academic/professional
 academic/professional
 academic/professional
 academic
 academic
 academic

further study
 further study
 further study
 further study
 further study
 further study
 further study

Post-Título
Magister
Doctor

* The *Certificado de Egresado* may be awarded at tertiary level for academic coursework completed for a *licenciatura* or *título profesional* when the thesis or a project has not been completed.