

# The Educational System of France

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# Levels of Education

- Five levels of education
  - Pre-primary (ecole maternelle)
  - Primary/Elementary (ecole primaire)
  - Lower Secondary (le college)
  - Upper Secondary (le lycee)
  - Post-Secondary

# The Educational System of France

- Pre-primary education: ages 2-6
- Primary Education (Education primaire)
  - Compulsory beginning at age 6
  - Five years in length
  - 2 cycles:
    - Le cycle des apprentissages fondamentaux (Basic Learning Cycle)
      - 2 years in length
      - Focus on Math, Reading, Writing, other basic skills
    - Le cycle des approfondissements (Advanced Cycle)
      - 3 years in length
      - Focus: Math, French Language, Social sciences, Sciences, and Foreign Language

- No credential is awarded upon completion of elementary school
- Brevet Informatique et Internet-Level 1
  - Computer and internet certificate
  - Not required to move on to lower secondary school

- Lower secondary education is offered at the *college*
  - 4 years in length, 3 cycles
    - Le cycle d'adaptation (adjustment cycle) 1 year
      - Sixieme (6<sup>th</sup> year)
      - French, math, modern foreign language, history-geography-civics, science technology, arts, physical education
    - Le cycle central 2 years
      - Cinquieme (5<sup>th</sup> year) and Quatrieme (4<sup>th</sup> year)
      - Same subjects as in 6<sup>th</sup> year and Latin or regional language elective
    - Le cycle d'orientation 1 year
      - Troisieme (3<sup>rd</sup> year)
      - Preparation for upper secondary school and choice of stream

- Upon completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year (*troisieme*) students are awarded le Diplome national du brevet (DNB) based on national exams and grades earned in the 4<sup>th</sup> year (*quatrieme*) and 3<sup>rd</sup> year (*troisieme*)

- Upper Secondary School (Le Lycee)
  - Le lycee d'enseignement general awards the baccalaureat de l'enseignement du second degre
  - Le lycee technologique awards the baccalaureat technologique
  - All bac programs are 3 years in length. Common curriculum in year 1, with students streamed in the final 2 years
    - Seconde (1<sup>st</sup> year)
    - Premiere (2<sup>nd</sup> year)
    - Terminal (final year)

- Streams for le Bac general
  - Scientifique – le Bac S (Math, physics-chemistry, life & earth sciences, engineering sciences)
  - Littéraire – le Bac L (Modern languages, classics –Latin or Greek, arts)
  - Economique et social – le Bac ES (Society & economics, math, languages)

- Streams for le Bac Technologique
  - STT: Tertiary Sciences and Technologies
  - STI: Industrial Sciences & Technologies
  - STL: Lab Sciences and Technology
  - SMS: Medical & Social Sciences
  - STPA: Agricultural Production Sciences and Technology
  - STAE: Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Technology

# Streams for the Bac (cont)

- TMD: Music & Dance Techniques
- H: Hotel/Restaurant Management
  
- 2003 pass rates
  - more than 83% of Bac general takers passed the exam
  - more than 76% of Bac technologique takers passed the exam.
- Brevet de Technicien: credential awarded to students with specializations in construction or applied arts

- Vocational education at the secondary level:
  - CAP: Certificat d'aptitude professionnelle
  - BEP: Brevet d'etudes professionnelles
  - BP: Brevet professionnel
  - BM: Brevet de maitrise
  - BTM: Brevet Technique des Metiers
  - Bac Pro: Baccalaureat professionnel
  - Brevet des Metiers d'Art
  - All programs offered at the lycee professionnel.

- CAP (Certificat d'aptitude professionnel)
  - Prepares students for specialized employment in commercial, industrial and service sectors
  - 2-year program following lower secondary school (3<sup>rd</sup> year or troisieme)
  - Includes general, technical and professional coursework
  - Leads to workforce, further study in the specialization, in a BEP, BM, Bac pro, BT, BTM, BMA programs

- BEP Brevet d'études professionnelles
  - 2-year program based on completion of lower secondary school 3<sup>rd</sup> year (troisieme)
  - Comprised of 50% general studies (sciences, math, French, history, geography, physical education) and 50% technical and professional studies. Foreign language required.

- Brevet Professionnel (BP) 2-year post CAP/BEP completed through apprenticeship or continuing education
- Brevet de Maitrise (BM) 2-year continuing education advancement of technical or management knowledge. Requires CAP/BEP plus 3 years of work experience for admission.
- Brevet Technique des Metiers (BTM) 2-year post CAP/BEP continuing ed or apprenticeship.
- Brevet des Metiers d'Art (BMA) 2-year program for CAP/BEP holders

- Bac Pro (Baccalaureat professionnel)
  - 1 year after CAP/BEP
  - Program includes general studies, professional studies and training in industry.
  - Holders of the Bac Pro can continue in a Brevet de technicien superieur (BTS) program or enter the workforce

- Higher Education
  - Universities
  - Instituts universitaires de technologie (IUT)
  - Instituts universitaires de formation des maitres (IUFM)
  - Section de techniciens superieurs (STS)
  - Classes preparatoires aux grandes ecoles (CPGE)
  - Ecoles d'ingenieurs
  - Ecoles de commerce, vente, gestion, comptabilite
  - Other

- Short programs

- BTS (Brevet de technicien superieur)

- 2-year programs , include internship and continuing education
    - Leads to employment in upper level technician positions or further education at an IUP, engineering school or university (second year of DEUG)

- DUT (Diplome universitaire de technologie)

- 2-year programs , include internship and continuing education
    - Leads to employment , IUP , engineering school or entrance to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of DEUG

- The IUP's (*Instituts universitaires professionnalisés*)
  - 3-year programs requiring at least 1 year of post-bac study for admission
  - Students with the BTS, DEUG or DUT can be admitted to 2<sup>nd</sup> year
  - Diplomas awarded:
    - End of 1<sup>st</sup> year: DEUG
    - End of 2<sup>nd</sup> year: Licence
    - End of 3<sup>rd</sup> year: Maitrise

Upon completion of the IUP program, students enter the workforce or continue their education in a DRT (Diplome de recherche technologique) or DESS (Diplome d'etudes superieures specialisees) program depending on their field of study.

DRT programs are 18 months of applied research in industry or in a university lab setting.

DESS programs are 1 year in length and include theoretical coursework case studies, and internship

# University Credentials

- DEUG (Diplome d'études universitaires générales)
  - 2 year post-bac program
- Licence – 1 year post-DEUG program
- Maitrise – 1 year post-Licence program
- Magistere 3 year post-DEUG program
- DEA or DESS 1 year post-maitrise
- Doctorat 2-4 years post-DEA



# New Degree Scheme

- Licence-Master-Doctorat sequence
  - Licence 6 semesters after Bac
    - Licence Generale
    - Licence Professionnelle
  - Master 4 semesters after the Licence
    - Master Recherche (leads to Doctorat)
    - Master Professionnel (leads to employment)
  - Doctorat 6 semesters after the Master
    - Requires research and thesis

# Teacher Training

- Primary, elementary, vocational and secondary school teachers are trained in *instituts universitaires de formation des maitres*
  - Admission requirement: licence or equivalent
  - First year prepares for exam: Concours Externe de Recrutement des Professeurs des Ecoles (External Exam for the Recruitment of School Teachers)
  - Second year (la formation professionnelle) provides teacher education and student teaching
  - Diplomas awarded depending on the level and type of teaching preparation completed:

- Diplomas awarded:
  - CRPE (Certificat de Recrutement des Professeurs des Ecoles)
  - CAPES (Certificat d'aptitude au professorat de l'enseignement secondaire)
  - CAPET (Certificat d'aptitude au professorat de l'enseignement technique)
  - CAPEPS (Certificat d'aptitude au professorat d'education physique et sportive)
  - CAPLP (Certificat d'aptitude au professorat de lycee professionnel)
  - CPE (Concours de recrutement de conseiller principal d'education)
  - CAFEP (Certificat d'aptitude aux fonctions de l'enseignement dans les etablissements d'enseignement prive du second degre sous contrat)
  - Students with these credentials can apply to universities for maitrise/mastere programs.

# Teacher Training in the Ecoles Normales Superieures

Ecoles normales superieures are *grandes ecoles* and offer preparation for high school and university level professors

- Highly selective admission of students based on Bac results or from *classes preparatoires aux grandes ecoles*

- 5-year programs for Bac holders

- 3-year programs for CPGE students

# Engineering

- Engineering admission via
  - Bac (*classes preparatoires aux grandes ecoles*)
    - 5-year program leading to Diplome d'Ingenieur
  - BTS (Brevet de technicien superieur) or DUT (Diplome universitaire de technologie)
    - 3 –year program leading to Diplome d'Ingenieur

Diplome d'Ingenieur leads to admission to DEA, DESS or Mastere Specialisee programs.

# Ministry of Education

- [www.education.gouv.fr](http://www.education.gouv.fr)

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