



THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF MOZAMBIQUE

(source: Ministry of Education and Culture of Mozambique, Universities, Senior Fulbright and Educational Advisor)

Mozambique operates on a 5-4-3-4 system:

Primary School	--	5 years
Junior Secondary School	--	5 years
Senior Secondary School	--	2 years
University Bachelor's degree	--	4 years

Mozambique has been restructuring its system of education since 1992. The old system was a state run, socialist-oriented system, while the new system includes both government and private educational institutions.

Language: Portuguese is the sole language of instruction throughout the country. English is taught at the secondary school level and is compulsory from sixth grade onwards. All final exams are standardized and produced by the government for both government and private schools.

Structure and Educational system: The first twelve years of government schooling in Mozambique are free. Primary school education is five years, followed by five years of secondary and 2 years of pre-university instruction. Students who pass a university admission exam are eligible for admission to a four-year bachelor's degree program offered by the respective Mozambican university where they have taken the entry exam.

To attend a Mozambican university, a student must pass a university admission exam with a minimum of fifteen points and have taken one or more subjects from the following groups for a minimum of three years: Portuguese, English, mathematics, natural sciences (biology and/or science), social science (geography and/or history).

Below is a comparison of the grading scales respectively in Mozambique and the U.S.

MOZAMBIQUE

UNITED STATES

18-20 Excellent	A-90-100%
17-18 very good	A-86-88
16 very good	B+85-89%
14-15 Good	B79-85%
12-13 Good	C+75-79%
10-11 Pass	C 70%
9,5 Pass	C-69
Below 9 – fail	below 60%

University Education: Mozambique has eight university-level institutions. Three are publicly owned: Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), Pedagogic University (UP) and the Higher Institute of International Relations (ISRI). The seven private institutions are the Higher Polytechnic Institute/University (ISPU), the Catholic University, (both set up in 1995), the Mozambican Institute of Science and Technology (ISCTEM) (established in 1996), the Mussa Bin Bique University (established in 1999), the Technical University of Mozambique (UDM) (established in 2003), and the University of Sao Tomas de Mocambique (USTM) (established in 2004), Lurio University (2006).

The university academic year begins in August and runs through June.

The cost of higher education is high at the private universities and relatively low at public universities. A large number of students work to help pay their expenses. Some receive scholarship grants from government institutions, and these can cover nearly all expenses for attending a public university.

Admissions to universities: An entrance exam is the basis for admission to a university. Entrance exams are administered through different colleges and programs offered by each particular institution.

There are two pre-entry university exams offered. The first exam selects students with the highest grades. The second exam gives a chance for students who do not pass the first one to fill in remaining vacancies.

The criteria used for admission is a minimum passing grade in the basic disciplines specified by the college and program areas. In some cases, the number of candidates meeting this requirement surpasses the number of vacancies. In these cases, a cumulative passing grade is established. For example, the entrance exam for law requires a minimum cumulative of 10.5 passing marks. The entrance priority is given to students with the highest grade performance average.

Grading system used for higher education: The University grading system is almost the same as that of Secondary School, but in some institutions the 0-5 scale below is used:

0-9 +1= Fail (below 49%)
10-11=2= Low Pass = 50-55%
12-14=3= Better Pass = 60-65%
15-17=4= Good Pass = 70-85%
18-20=5= Excellent Pass = 90-100%

Degrees: Universities offer a Bachelors degree, called a “Licenciatura”.

Humanities/Social Science : 4 years
Science degree: 5 years

The Bachelors degree is obtained after completion of eight semesters or four years of university courses. For a science degree students need to complete the four-year Bachelors degree plus one more, that is, 2 additional semesters of course work.

Mozambicans in the United States: 80 Mozambican students are enrolled in U.S. institutions. (2007 open doors)

Testing: Paper based and Internet based TOEFL as well as the SAT and GRE are offered at the Public Affairs Office, the only authorized testing center in Mozambique. GMAT, and LSAT, are not offered in Mozambique. Students who wish to take the GMAT and LSAT have to travel to neighboring South Africa.

Educational Advising: The Educational Advising Center in Mozambique located in the Public Affairs Section of the United States Embassy helps students from all over Mozambique clarify their options and purpose of a U.S. education; we provide accurate information about U.S. educational, requirements, policies and procedures and with the help of a wide range of programs help strengthen students’ applications and their readiness for U.S. higher education. We are eager to work with you to make it possible for more Mozambican students to enroll and thrive in your institution. Please contact the Educational Advisor, in Mozambique:

Educational advisor: **Amelia Massavanhane**
Address: **Public Affairs Office**
Av. Mao Tse Tung, 542
Maputo, Mozambique
Tel: +258 21 491916 Fax: +258 21 491918
Email: massavanhaneab@state.gov

We would appreciate two copies each of your catalogue, view book, video and CD-ROM, mailed to:

Educational Advisor
US Embassy – Public Affairs Section
2330 Maputo Place
Washington, DC 20521-2330