

# Comparative Indicators of Education in the United States and Other G-8 Countries: 2011

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- Universal enrollment: Yes
- Compulsory: Yes
- Entrance/exit criteria: Students in the Russian Federation must pass two written exams at the end of secondary school in order to obtain the Certificate of Secondary Complete General Education. These exams include Russian language and Mathematics and are administered in the form of the Unified State Examination.

NOTE: Students who have graduated from lower secondary school have the option to continue in three types of upper secondary schools:

- *Professional'no-technicheskoe uchilische*: These schools provide professional education only in a program that usually lasts 2 years.
- *Srednee (polnoe) obshchee obrazovanie*: Students who wish to continue their academic training enter these upper secondary schools, which last for 2 years and provide students with a Certificate of Secondary Complete General Education. This certificate qualifies students to apply for entrance into higher education. Graduates may also continue their study in initial and secondary vocational schools.
- *Kolledž, professional'ny litsei, or tekhnikum*: These schools provide combined professional and academic programs that lead to a diploma (Certificate of Secondary Complete General Education). The programs are usually 3 or 4 years.

#### Postsecondary and tertiary:

- Common name: *Kolledž, tekhnikum, universitet*
- Ages of attendance: Varies
- Number of years: Varies according to degree
- Universal enrollment: No
- Entrance criteria: Candidates are accepted to the post secondary vocational institutions on the basis of the results of the Unified State Examinations or additional examinations called *vstupitel'noe ispytanie*. The number of exams and the subject varies according to the department a student wishes to attend, although all students must take an exam in Russian language.

#### Common degree programs:

- **Nonuniversity-level diploma**: Obtained from *kolledž* (colleges) and *tekhnikum* (technical colleges). These diplomas are in applied or vocational fields and require 2 years of study after secondary school. Students may be able to enter university-level institutions after completing this degree and transfer some or all credits toward a *bakalavr*.

- **Diploma o nepolnom vysshem obrazovanii** (diploma of incomplete higher education): If students leave university after at least 2 years of study, they may ask for this diploma, which allows them to work in certain jobs that require some university experience but not a degree.
- **Bakalavr** (bachelor's degree): Program requiring 4 years of university study.
- **Magistr** (master's degree): Competitive 2-year program for students who have completed their *bakalavr's* degree. Most require a year of research and a thesis.
- **Diplom**: This specialized diploma can be obtained either by completing 1 year of study beyond the *bakalavr* or by completing 5 to 6 years of continuous study after upper secondary school.
- **Kandidat nauk**: Students who hold a *diplom* or *magistr* are eligible to apply for these programs, which typically last for 3 years and require students to carry out independent research and defend a dissertation in public. **Equivalent of a doctorate in the United States.**
- **Doktor nauk**: This is the highest possible academic degree in the Russian Federation, **for which there is no U.S. equivalent.** This degree requires that a *kandidat nauk* gain reputation in his or her field of study, publish independent research, and have experience supervising undergraduates. A 3-year sabbatical is often taken to prepare research for the degree, although there is no specified length of time required to obtain it. The *doktor nauk* requires a public dissertation defense (in addition to the defense completed to obtain a *kandidat nauk*).

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