The Gambia

Educational Timeline

- School year: July-June; Graduation occurs upon completion of the West African Examinations Council Senior Certificate Exam (WASSCE), which occurs in May/June for school candidates, and October/November for private candidates
- Lower Basic School (Primary) consists of six years beginning at age seven and is followed by three years of Upper Basic School (Middle). Senior Secondary (Secondary) makes up the last three years of schooling occurring roughly within the ages of sixteen and nineteen.

Group A: Documents That Meet High School Graduation Requirement

Students presenting documents other than those listed below will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis

West African Examinations Council Senior School Certificate (WASSCE)

-Since 2006 for regular school candidates
-Since 2008 for private candidates
-Comparable to US high school graduation only if five or more exam subject passes are achieved

West African Examinations Council (WAEC) Senior Secondary School Certificate (SSSCE)

-From 1993-2005 for regular school candidates
-From 1993-2007 for private candidates
-Comparable to US high school graduation only if five or more exam subject passes are achieved

The WASSCE or SSSCE Certificate must be accompanied by WAEC scratch card information (serial number, PIN number) for results verification; scratch card information can be submitted with the document as a copy of the front/back of the card, or through direct correspondence with the student.

Group B: Documents That Do Not Meet High School Graduation Requirement

Comparable to less than completion of US high school

Gambia Basic Education Certificate
Primary School Leaving Certificate
Junior School Leaving Certificate
School-issued leaving certificate

GPA Calculation

Calculate the cumulative high school GPA by converting line-by-line all grades listed on the official WASSCE or SSSCE exam certificate to US equivalents using the appropriate grading scale below and convert to quality points. Divide quality points by the total number of exams on the official certificate.

Grading Scale (May not be all inclusive):

SSSCE:

Description	Grade	US Grade	Quality Points	
Excellent	A	A	4	
Very Good	B	A	4	
Good	C	B	3	
Credit	D	C	2	
Pass	E	D	1	lowest passing grade

WASSCE:

Description	Grade	US Grade	Quality Points	
Excellent	A1	A	4	
Very Good	B2	A	4	
Good	B3	B	3	
Credit	C4	B	3	
Credit	C5	C	2	
Credit	C6	C	2	
Pass	D7	D	1	
Pass	E8	D	1	lowest passing grade
Fail	F9	F	0	

Class Ranking

Class rank is evaluated based on a letter written and submitted by the headmaster or principal of the institution from which the student graduated. The letter must confirm both the student's final position in the student's secondary school class and the total number of students in the graduating class (e.g. the student is 41st in a total graduating class of 112 students). However, students completing separate degrees or tests (e.g. WASSCE versus SSSCE) must be ranked against all other students in a given class who completed the same examination. Country-wide grade comparisons do not meet the class rank requirement. Class ranking cannot be used to meet initial freshman requirements for students who took the WASSCE as private candidates if they were not attending a private or public senior secondary school. Students who do not pass the required minimum of five exam subject passes may not use the class rank requirement.

Post-Secondary Education

Students will be charged terms of attendance and considered transfer students if they have enrolled as a regular student and attended one or more courses at any of the types of institutions listed below (may not be all inclusive) or any other institution that requires proof of high school graduation as a pre-requisite for admission (subject to review on a case-by-case basis).

The University of The Gambia
Gambia College
Technical Training Institute

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