

## Zimbabwe

### Educational Timeline

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- School year: January-November; Graduation occurs in November
- Primary School is seven years, followed by four years of Lower Secondary School (Forms I, II, III, and IV). Students typically sit for ZIMSEC or University of Cambridge administered examinations (O-Levels) at the end of four years of lower secondary school.
- After timely completion of four years of Lower Secondary School, students can extend high school graduation to the end of Upper Secondary School (Forms V and VI) for a maximum of two years by enrolling at the first possible opportunity and completing the programs listed below in the manner indicated

### Group A: Documents That Meet High School Graduation Requirement

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Students presenting documents other than those listed below will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Students presenting academic timelines outside of the allowable time frames outlined below will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Graduation Point:

ZGCE O-Level – Zimbabwe General Certificate of Education at Ordinary Level, awarded by ZIMSEC

- Must be accompanied by academic records/transcripts from secondary education. Comparable to US high school graduation only if five or more exam subject passes achieved.

IGCSE O-Level-International General Certificate of Secondary Education, awarded by the University of Cambridge

-Must be accompanied by academic records/transcripts from secondary education. Comparable to US high school graduation only if five or more exam subject passes achieved.

#### Allowable Continuing Secondary Extension:

GCE AS-Level – General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary Level, awarded by the University of Cambridge

-Must be accompanied by all other credential(s) previously earned. Student must enroll in the program at the first available opportunity and either: earn one AS-Level in one year or two AS-Levels in two years if student also earns an A-Level.

ZGCE AO-Level – Zimbabwe General Certificate of Education at Advanced Ordinary Level, awarded by ZIMSEC

-Must be accompanied by all other credential(s) previously earned. Student must enroll in the program at the first available opportunity and either: earn one AO-Level in one year or two AO-Levels in two years if student also earns an A-Level.

GCE A-Level – General Certificate of Education Advanced Level, awarded by the University of Cambridge

-Must be accompanied by all other credential(s) previously earned. Student must enroll in the program at the first available opportunity and earn either: one A-Level in one year, two A-Levels in two years, or one A-Level and two AS-Levels in two years.

ZGCE A-Level – Zimbabwe General Certificate of Education at Advanced Level, awarded by ZIMSEC

-Must be accompanied by all other credential(s) previously earned. Student must enroll in the program at the first available opportunity and earn either: one A-Level in one year, two A-Levels in two years, or one A-Level and two AO-Levels in two years.

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

Comparable to less than completion of US high school

Grade 7 Certificate

Zimbabwe Junior Certificate

### GPA Calculation

Calculate the cumulative high school GPA using all exam grades earned on official exam certificates listed in “Group A” above. In the case that students present multiple documents/certificates from “Group A” use all exam grades from each type of credential in the GPA calculation (e.g. students might take O-Levels and A-Levels, both of which are included in the GPA calculation). Exam results listed on documents other than official exam certificates issued from the examination bodies (or school stamped copies of the official exam certificates) are not used to calculate the GPA. Convert each exam grade listed on the certificates to a US equivalent using the corresponding scale(s) below and convert to quality points. All exam grades are used and weighted equally.

ZGCE O-Level (ZIMSEC):

Grade	US Grade	Quality Points	
A	A	4	
B	B	3	
C	C	2	
D	C	2	
E	D	1	lowest passing grade
U	F	0	

ZGCE A-Level (ZIMSEC)

Grade	US Grade	Quality Points	
A	A	4	
B	B	3	
C	C	2	
D	C	2	
E	D	1	lowest passing grade
U	F	0	

A grade of “O” appearing on an A-Level certificate indicates a fail at the Advanced Level, but a pass at grade level “C” or high at the Ordinary Level.

For University of Cambridge IGCSE and A-Level grading scales, see [England, Northern Ireland and Wales](#)

### Class Ranking

Class rank is determined based on official overall rank at the time of graduation as it appears on the school’s official transcripts. If no such ranking appears on official transcripts, 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).

Students can meet this requirement upon timely completion of five IGCSEs or GCE O-Levels. If the student does not meet the class ranking at this time or the school is unable to supply this information, the student can meet the class rank requirement upon

their second graduation point (allowable high school extensions are listed above in “Group A”). However, students completing tracked or separate degree programs (e.g. ZGCE O-Levels) must be ranked against all other students in a given class who completed the same degree program. Class ranking cannot be used to meet initial freshmen requirements for private candidates.

## **Post-Secondary Education**

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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).

University

College

Teacher College

Polytechnic

Industrial Training Center

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