

Switzerland

Background

Academic Calendar	September-June
What is year nine called?	<i>Klasse 3 3ème, classe 1</i>
Where is year nine typically located?	Final year of lower secondary school
Native Language(s)	German, French, Italian, Romansh
Graduation Timeline	
See chart below	Timeline varies by canton—please use timeline resource below

Timelines

Canton	Primary and Lower Secondary	Academic Upper Secondary (Not Compulsory)	Total Number of Years
Aargau	5 + 4	+4	13
Appenzell Ausserrhoden	6 + 3	+4*	13
Appenzell Innerhoden	6 + 3	+3	12
Basel Landschaft	5 + 4	+3 or 5	12 or 14
Basel-Stadt	4 + 5	+3	12
Bern	6 + 3	+3	12
Fribourg (Freiburg)	6 + 3	+4	13
Geneève	6 + 3	+4	13
Glarus	6 + 3	+3	12
Graubünden	6 + 3	+4*	13
Jura	6 + 3	+3	12
Luzern	6 + 3	+4*	13
Neuchâtel	5 + 4	+3	12
Schaffhausen	6 + 3	+4*	13
Schwyz (Schweiz)	6 + 3	+4*	13
Solothurn	6 + 3	+4*	13
St. Gallen	6 + 3	+4*	13
Thurgau	6 + 3	+4*	13
Ticino	5 + 4	+4	13
Nidwalden	6 + 3	+3	12
Obwalden	6 + 3	+3	12
Uri	6 + 3	+4*	13
Valais (Wallis)	6 + 3	+4*	13
Vaud	5 + 4	+3	12
Zug	6 + 3	+3*	12
Zürich	6+3	+3*	12

*In these cases, students can leave the lower secondary level one year earlier to enter the upper academic secondary level (e.g., in the case of Zürich, 6 + 2 + 4). Basel-Stadt allows the transition two years earlier, and both Neuchâtel and Vaud allow it three years earlier. However, in the following cantons, students can postpone transition until the end of year nine if they do not feel ready to enter the upper secondary level after year eight: St. Gallen, Schaffhausen, Schwyz and Thurgau.

- » Preprimary education is provided by *Kindergarten/Écoles Infantines/Case dei Bambini* in all the Swiss cantons; attendance is not compulsory, but most children attend them.

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PROOF OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

1. *Schweizerische Eidgenössisches Maturitätszeugnis/Confédération Suisse de maturité/Confederrazione Svizzera attestato di maturità/Baccalauréat* [Swiss Federal Maturity Certificate]

Expected Timeline of Completion	See timeline for specific canton, above
Issuing Body	Swiss canton

2. *Eidgenössisch anerkanntes kantonale Maturitätszeugnis/Certificat de maturité cantonal reconnu par la Confédération/Attestato di maturità cantonale riconosciuta dalla Confederazione* [Federally Recognized Cantonal Maturity Certificate]

Expected Timeline of Completion	See timeline for specific canton, above
Issuing Body	Swiss canton

3. *Eidgenössisches Berufsmaturitätszeugnis/Certificat fédérale de maturité professionnelle/Attestato federale di maturità professionale* [Federal Vocational Maturity Certificate]

Expected Timeline of Completion	See timeline for specific canton, above
Issuing Body	Swiss canton

4. *Fachmaturitätszeugnis/Certificat de maturité spécialisée/Attestat di maturità specializzata* [Specialized Maturity Certificate]

Expected Timeline of Completion	See timeline for specific canton, above
Issuing Body	Swiss canton

5. *Eidgenössisches Fähigkeitszeugnis/Certificat fédérale de capaité/Attestato federale di capacità* [Federal Certificate of Proficiency]

Expected Timeline of Completion	See timeline for specific canton, above
Issuing Body	Swiss canton

6. *Eidgenössisches Berufsattest/Attestation fédérale de formation professionnelle/Certificato federale di formazione pratica* [Federal Vocational Certificate]

Expected Timeline of Completion	See timeline for specific canton, above
Issuing Body	Swiss canton

7. *Höhere Berufsbildung/Formation Professionnelle Supérieure/Frmazione Professionale Superior* [Higher Vocational Education] leading to *Eidgenössische Diplom/Eidgenössische Fachausweis/Diplôm fédérale/Brevet federal/Diploma federale/Attestato Professionale Federale* [Federal Advanced or Higher Vocational Diploma]

Expected Timeline of Completion	See timeline for specific canton, above
Issuing Body	Swiss canton

8. *Höhere Fachschule (HF) École Supérieures (ES)/Scuole Specializzate Superiori (SSS)* [Advanced or Higher Vocational School] leading to *Diplom HF, Diplôme ES, Diploma SSS* [Diploma from an Advanced or Higher Vocational School]

Expected Timeline of Completion	See timeline for specific canton, above
Issuing Body	Swiss canton

9. *Certificat de Culture Générale* [Certificate of General Culture]

Expected Timeline of Completion	See timeline for specific canton, above
Issuing Body	Swiss canton

NOT ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PROOF OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

1. *Certificat d'Etudes* [Certificate of Studies] *Certificat Secondaire* [Lower Secondary Certificate]

Expected Timeline of Completion	Nine years (one year or two semesters from the initial start of year nine)
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2. Completion of *Sekundärschule/École Secondaire/Scuola Media* [Lower Secondary School]

Expected Timeline of Completion	Nine years (one year or two semesters from the initial start of year nine)
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3. *Diplom/Diplôme/Diploma* from a *Diplommittelschule* [Middle School Diploma] or *Ecole de Culture Générale/ Scuola Cultura Generale* [School of General Studies]

Expected Timeline of Completion	Nine years (one year or two semesters from the initial start of year nine)
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4. *Berufsmittelschuldiplom/Baccalauréat Technique* [Diploma from Vocational Middle School]

Expected Timeline of Completion	Nine years (one year or two semesters from the initial start of year nine)
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CREDITING POLICIES

If course credits are indicated on the transcript, the following units provided on the document will be awarded credit as follows:

Units of Credit	U.S. Equivalent Credit Per Year
4+	1.00
3	0.75

Units of Credit	U.S. Equivalent Credit Per Year
2	0.50
1	0.25

GRADING SCALE

<i>Numeric Grade</i>	<i>Translation</i>	<i>U.S. Grade Equivalent</i>	<i>Quality Points</i>
6	6	A	4
5.5	5-6	A	4
5	5	B	3
4.5	4-5	B	3
4	4	C	2
3.5*	Conceded Pass*	D*	1*
3.5	3.5	F	0
3	3	F	0
2.5	2-3	F	0
2	2	F	0
1.5	1-2	F	0
1	1	F	0

***Note:** A grade of 3.5 is considered passing (equivalent to a U.S. grade of “D”) only when the overall average of that academic year is 4 or higher.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- » [Course Title Usage guide.](#)
- » [Determination of Credit resource.](#)
- » [International initial-eligibility flyer.](#)
- » [Student account task information.](#)
- » [NCAA Guide of International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility.](#)
- » [Country-specific webpages.](#)
- » [Multi-country references.](#)

