

Possible Career Paths - Part 2 - College / University

Dear Friends,

The January & February articles have discussed possible career paths for children in Ghana based on levels of completed education. In this article, my focus will be to talk about the *high school graduate* who then continues on to a *tertiary/college level* institution.

Students who are **12th Grade High School Graduates** complete this level of education with a certificate awarded by the West African Schools Certificate Board, (WASCE), proving they have completed the **high school** program. As mentioned in the *previous (February) article*, a determined graduate at this level could pursue a path to a career in: *nursing, teaching, laboratory technician, lower class civil service in the government secretariats, the police service, the military*, and other positions in the general economy that requires proficiency in the available skills-oriented jobs.

Institutions that are available to develop young people for the careers mentioned above, operate under **specific categories** from which the graduate finishes with another certificate describing the course pursued, in addition to the one obtained from WASCE. In recent times, a first degree (Bachelor), in the relevant field is awarded, whereas it used to be a *diploma*.

Students are now earning and being awarded with a Bachelor of *Science (B.Sc, Nursing)*, of Education (B.Ed, Teaching), etc. For this purpose, in Ghana currently there are colleges that produce **specific** people for specific jobs. Needless to say, one cannot become a nurse without going through a **nursing college**, nor can one become a teacher without going through a **college of education**. The period of schooling to become a nurse or a teacher normally doesn't go beyond **three years**.

To become a professional, such as **doctor, architect, engineer, or a lawyer**, the young graduate has to be admitted into a **university**. Until recently, in the past twenty-plus years, university education in Ghana was a *bursary facility* OR tuition free. Now, this level of education will be of cost to the student, or considered **fee-paying**.

The period of study to pursue any of these professional careers differs for each particular course. For instance, to become a **doctor**, the period is not less than *six continuous years of education* in the medical school. The engineer also goes beyond three years, depending on the particular category.

After attaining a certificate from the university in the relevant profession, the individual is required to sit for an examination to become a member of the **body** of that profession.

Blessings

Pastor Ben Wilson