

Update on Cuba

Melanie Gottlieb AACRAO

> Martha Van Devender ECE/TAICEP Representative

Patrick Leahy Michigan State University

> Mark Reid University of Miami

Aleks Morawski Foreign Credits/AICE Representative

> Christopher Adams Indiana University

Tuesday, March 27, 2018 8-9:15 am

Session ID# 7341





Session Rules of Etiquette

- Please silence your electronic devices.
- Please complete the session evaluation using the AACRAO mobile app or the paper form in your registration packet, drop boxes are available throughout the convention center.
- If you must leave the session early, please do so as discreetly as possible
- Please avoid side conversation during the session

Thank you for your cooperation!



Introduction

Relations between Cuba and the United States started to improve under the Obama administration and options for educational recruitment and exchange proliferated. However there is a dearth of English-language resources on the educational system of Cuba, particularly the modern era. How can we treat Cuban students equitably without a baseline for comparison? How do we establish mutually beneficial partnerships with Cuban institutions, if we do not even know the status they have in the educational system? And do these questions still matter under our new leadership in the United States? In hope of starting to answer questions like these, AACRAO sent a research team to Cuba in February 2018. Join with research team members as we discuss the Cuba trip, the educational system and documentation, lessons learned, and the next steps for the AACRAO Cuba research team.



Learning Outcomes:

- Will have an understanding of the different levels of education
- Be able to identify various educational documents
- Have contact information on how to obtain official documentation





AACRAO Cuba Trip

Martha Van Devender









What was this all about?

Starting in Fall 2017, AACRAO recruited a research team to visit Cuba.

- Update AACRAO EDGE profile on Cuba
- Produce a publication on the Cuban educational system
- Present on our findings
- Promote educational exchange

The University of Havana has very large doors/doorways!



- Combination of professional educators and graduate students participating in credit-bearing courses in the US
- Focus of exchange is week-long workshop with educational professionals in Cuba, "Researching Cuban Educational Practices"
- 24th year of the program, largest American contingent ever
- Workshop rotates around country, Cubans compete for opportunity to travel/participate, Matanzas was the site this year
- AACRAO was part of this group
- Most of our group were graduate students from George Washington University and University of Maryland

Busquedas Investigativas Academic Explorations





AACRAO Comparative International Education:

The Cuba Project

February 17-25, 2018 Havana and Matanzas

http://www.aacrao.org/aacr ao-solutions/aacraointernational/trainingopportunities/the-cubaproject





- Christopher Adams, Indiana University
- Tanya Delgado, University of South Florida
- Garett Seelinger, NAIA
- Janine Pacheco, University of New Mexico
- Aleks Morawski, Foreign Credits/AICE
- Christie Culp, Loyola Marymount University
- Akniet Rysbek kyzy, Stanford University
- Patrick Leahy, Michigan State University
- Mark Reid, University of Miami
- Martha Van Devender, ECE/TAICEP
- Robert Watkins, University of Texas at Austin
- Melanie Gottlieb, Deputy Director, AACRAO

The AACRAO Dozen

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Sample Schedule (Mine)



Sat: fly to Cuba, meet group Sun: lectures on Cuban education, bus tour, Old Havana

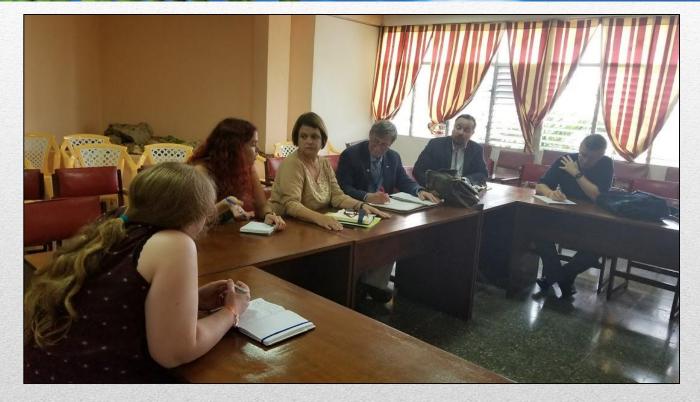
Mon: visited University of Havana and ELAM, more lectures

Tues: more University of Havana, travel to Matanzas, conference opening plus small groups

Wed: small groups

Thurs: visited special education school, lectures at University of Matanzas, visit with Rector and Secretary General, small groups Fri: new small group, closing plenary, party Sat: back to Havana, AACRAO group meeting, another party Sun: walk around neighborhood, back home again

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Advancing Global Higher Education

Meeting with the Secretaria General and Rector of Universidad de Matanzas



Cuban Educational System

Aleks Morawski



Mark Reid





Primary & Secondary

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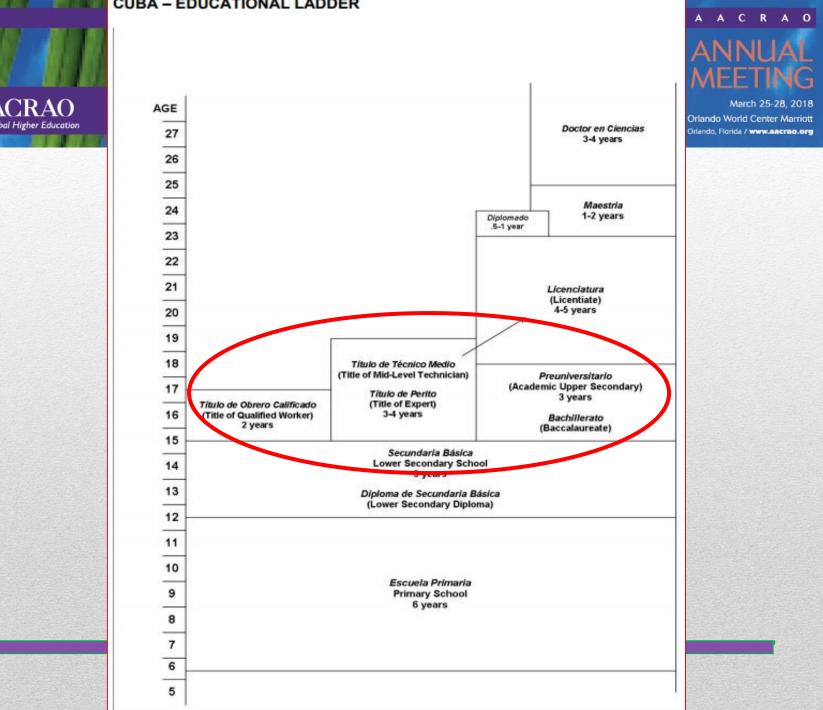
Education System in Cuba

Advancing Global Higher Ed



Primary and Secondary Credentials

- Certificado de 6° Grado
- Diploma de Secundaria Básica
- Diploma de Obrero Calificado
- Título de Técnico Medio
- Bachiller/Bachillerato
- Título de Perito



CUBA - EDUCATIONAL LADDER

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Credential

Years / US Equivalence

- Certificado de 6° Grado
- Diploma de Secundaria Básica
- Diploma de Obrero Calificado
- Título de Técnico Medio
- Título de Perito
- Bachiller/Bachillerato



- 6 Years / Completion of 6th grade
- 3 Years / Completion of 9th grade
- 2 Years / Completion of 11th grade
- 3-4 Years / Vocational high school completion
- 3-4 Years / Vocational high school completion
- 3 Years / High School Diploma

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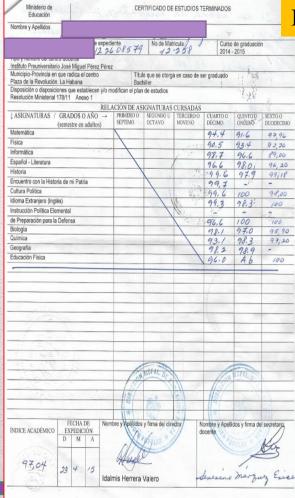
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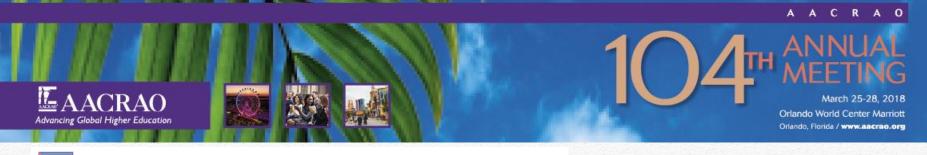
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Post-Secondary



Education System in Cuba



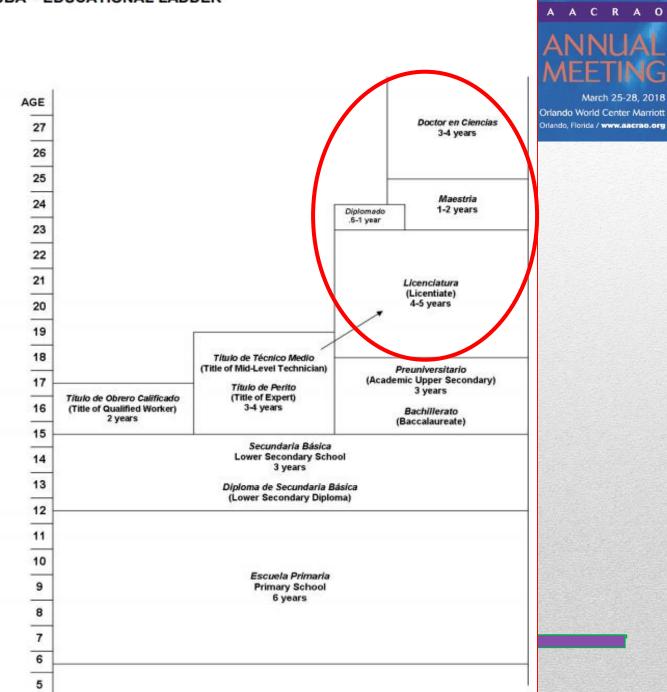
Post-Secondary Credentials

- Técnico Superior
- Licenciatura
- Ingeniero
- Maestría
- Especialista
- Doctor en Medicina

Veterinaria, Estomatologia, Medicina

• Doctor en Ciencias

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March 25-28, 2018



Credential

- Técnico Superior
- Licenciatura
- Ingeniero
- Maestría
- Especialista
- Doctor en Medicina
 Veterinaria,

Estomatologia, Medicina

Doctor en Ciencias

U.S. Equivalence

Years / US Equivalence

- 2-3 years / Associate's degree
- 4-5 years / Bachelor's degree
- 5 years / Bachelor's degree
- 1-2 years / Master's degree
- 1-2 Years / Graduate certificate
- 5 Years (Vet Med); 5 Years
 (Dentistry) 6 Years (Med) / First
 Professional degree
- 3-4 Years / Doctorate

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CERTIFICADA POR LA JAN

CERTIFICACION DE ESTUDIOS TERMINADOS

LA DRA NIDIA MARQUEZ MORALES, DIRECTORA DE LA SECRETARIA GENERAL DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE CIENCIAS MÉDICAS DE LA HABANA, CERTIFICO QUE:

Según antecedentes que obran en el Expediente Académico registrado al Folio: I, Numero: 2516, del Libro de la Secretaria de la "Escuela Nacional de Salud Publica", perteneciente a: Secretaria de la "Escuela Nacional de Salud Clinica" ha cursado y obtenido de acuerdo con el Plan de Estudios que le correspondió como aspirante al Título de ENFERMERO LICENCIADO ESPECIALISTA EN PSIQUIATRIA las calificaciones siguientes.





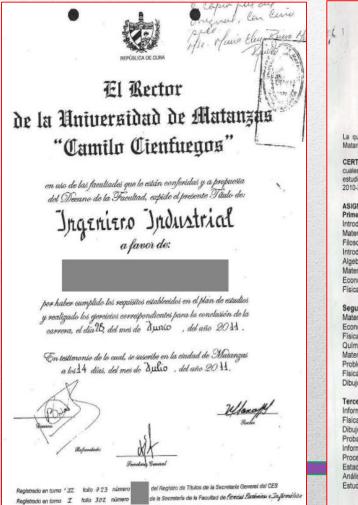
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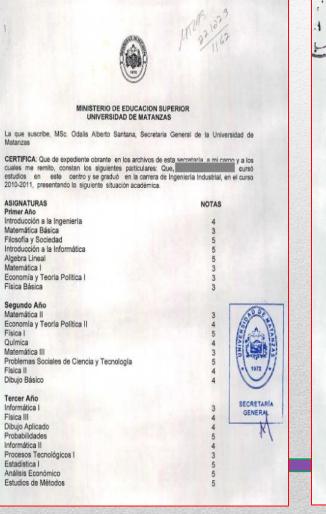
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SECRETARIA

GENERAL

MSc. Odalis Alberto Santana

Secretaria General

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DRA. NIDIA MÁRQUEZ MORALES, DIRECTORA DE LA SECRETARIA GENERAL DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE CIENCIAS MÉDICAS DE LA HABANA	
CERTIFICO QUE: El documento que se adjunta, debidamente firmado y acuñado, contiene el Programa Oficial de Estudio con su carga horaria que corresponde a las disciplinas que constituyen el curriculum por el cual cursó y aprobó de Primero a Segundo años (ambos inclusive) de la Maestria en Psicologia Clínica, en este Centro de Enseñanza Medica Superior por el (la) estudiante:	Call States
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Obtaining Documents from Cuba

The Embassy of Cuba in Washington, D.C. can help.

- Legalization: The embassy sends documents to MINREX in Cuba; once documents are back from MINREX to the embassy, the embassy legalizes with stamps and seals.
- Document request: The embassy can request duplicate diplomas and transcripts directly from Cuba

Contact information: Consular section of Embassy of Cuba in Washington, DC: Address: 2630 16th street NW Washington DC 20009 Phones: 202-797-8518 / -8519 / -8520 Fax: 202-797-8521

Consular services:

http://www.cubadiplomatica.cu/eeuu/ES/ServiciosConsulares.aspx#LEGACERTCUBA



Legalization and Certification of Cuban documents:

To take effect abroad, Cuban documents must first be legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINREX) and then by our consulate. That is why, when you need to legalize a document, you can do it through our consulate, so you must:

- Present the original document legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Postal Money Order for \$ 40.00 USD to legalize at the consulate.
- If you have the document, the consulate offers the service of sending it to the Foreign Ministry to legalize, which has a cost of \$ 25.00 USD, just for shipping.
- When the document legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, you will be contacted to send a Postal Money Order of \$ 80.00 USD (\$40.00 USD Minrex legalization and \$40.00 USD for legalization at the consulate).
- Remember that if you do not pick up at the consulate, you must add a Postal Money Order in the amount of \$ 20.00 (non-personal pending).
- Do not forget the return envelope.



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Select Education System Reforms

- 1976 Primer Perfeccionamiento de la Educación Cubana
 - Creation of the Ministerio de Educación Superior with emphasis on quality of university programs
- Segundo Perfeccionamiento de la Educación Cubana
 - Inclusion of information technology in the education process
- 2010 Tercer Perfeccionamiento de la Educación Cubana (2010)
 - Transformation of teaching methods
- Agenda 2030



11th Regional Conference on Higher Education for Latin America

Havana, Cuba February 12 -16, 2018

"The University and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in the Centennial of the University Reform of Cordoba"



Many transformations in Cuban higher education since 1959

Two major educational reforms - 1923 and 1962

Since 1959, almost one and a half million professionals have graduated and close to 12% of the country's population and 22% of its workers hold university degrees.

Notable growth in Institutions

- In 1959, 3 major universities
- In 2018, 50 universities and 126 municipal university campuses coordinated with major universities.

Approximately 70% of UG degrees, Masters and PhD program are accredited.



Higher Education and Public Policies in Cuba

As of 2011, an ongoing process - "Updating the Cuban economic and social model"

Generating new public policy

New actors and new demands

- Policy formation with input of professors/researchers
- Decision makers receiving recommendations from wide range of experts, economists, sociologists engineers technical committees and commissions

Universities play key role in trajectories and forming new policies.



Higher Education and Public Policies in Cuba

New policies being implemented – "Strategic Planning 2017-2021" MES

- Improving undergraduate and postgraduate teaching processes
- At degree level, moving forward with implementing new generation of syllabuses w/trend toward changing degree courses to 4 years
- Developing different access routes to various types of courses tecnico superior > licenciatura
- Education of doctors
 - Curricula and research agenda more closely coordinated with economy and society



Proposed Goals at Graduate Level

Better coordination w/ system of masters and postgraduate specializations though ongoing educ., programs.

- In 2030, number of doctoral paper defenses will go from 650 to 1000.
- Double the percentage of PhD's in teaching body.



What We Learned

Patrick Leahy Michigan State University





Some General Observations:

- Education is culturally valued in Cuba; connects students to jobs. Balance of individual and societal needs.
- Centralized system: 80% of curriculum is determined by the central government and 20% is flexible and based on local and individual needs.
- Reforms are a persistent condition of the educational system. Reform is the policy!



Current educational reforms in Cuba:

- Flexibility in curriculum
- National prioritization of English language education, including development of foreign language centers offering English language classes at universities
- Continued internationalization of education for educational and economic reasons



Additional thoughts:

- Teachers are highly educated and valued
- Undergraduate students usually live at home and do not work. Once finish, typically get a job in their field and start a family. Graduate studies are pursued by employed individuals, to help them achieve a higher position and salary in their current field of work.
- MES has a national grade database, hope we can facilitate them plugging into Groningen
- More research is needed





Visit to a pre-universitario (upper secondary school) in Matanzas





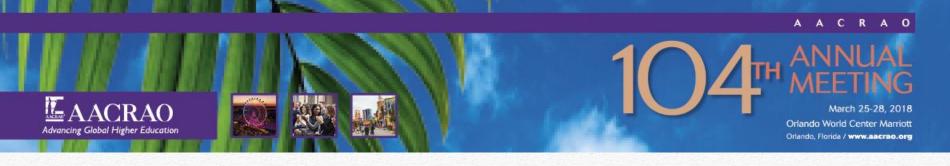
Visit to University of Havana



Remaining Research Questions

Christopher Adams





System Questions

- What changes should we reasonably expect to be completed by 2030 at the conclusion of the "Plan"?
 - What is expected to change in the 5→4 year licenciatura degree programs?
- System standardization
 - Are all schools equal throughout the country or are there noticeable discrepancies in quality of instruction based on geographic location?
 - More in-depth discussions regarding governance/autonomy of schools would be beneficial
 - Are tests standardized at the national/provincial level, and if so, to what degree? Who provides oversight? Etc.



Credential Questions

- Ministerio de Educacion Superior plans of study
 - Reputed to be available, but where?
- Verification of academic records
 - Any options outside of sourcing directly from school?
- External transcripts/transfer credit
 - Since most student stay in-system, do traditional documents differ from those offered to external entities?
 - May merit a follow-up with countries that see a large number of Cuban students



General Questions

- Affordability of studying abroad?
 - Are the majority of students able to afford study in the U.S. without significant aid?
- What is the impact of political barriers to students wanting to study in the U.S.?
 - Both under current law and in regard to the volatility of the political climate
- What are the legal barriers to establishing official exchanges?
 - All schools in Cuba are governmental entities, so how do U.S. institutions interact with them under current law?





Cuban Sunset



Questions?

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Thank You!

Please complete the session evaluation using the AACRAO mobile app or the paper form provided in your registration packet.

Session ID 7341

