



NEBRASKA

CERTIFICATION

According to its Title II report, Nebraska offers Type A, B, and C certification. Temporary, initial, standard, and professional certificates are available. Certification requires the completion of a state approved teacher education program.

Elementary Certification

One social studies methods course is required.

Middle-Level and Secondary Certification

In order to be able to teach history in grades 7–12 in Nebraska, candidates must have a history endorsement of 36 hours including 30 hours of history and at least 6 hours in one or more social science areas or a social studies endorsement of 60 semester hours in all social science fields.

STANDARDS

Standards for Teachers

According to the state's Title II report, content standards are located in the Regulations for the Approval of Teacher Education Programs, Chapters 20 and 24, to which teacher education programs must adhere.

Standards for Students

Nebraska's Social Studies Standards are currently undergoing a process of revision. The most recent draft as of this writing was created in July 2002. The standards address content in different disciplines that comprise social studies at different grade levels.

- ❖ Kindergarten and First Grade: Social studies encompassing United States history, geography, civics/government, and economics.
- ❖ Second through Fourth Grade: Social studies encompassing United States history, Nebraska history, geography, civics/government, and economics.
- ❖ Fifth through Eighth Grade: Social studies encompassing United States history, world history, Nebraska history, geography, civics/government, and economics; standards are divided into United States history, world history to 1000 AD, civics and economics, and skills.
- ❖ Ninth through Twelfth Grade: Social studies including United States history, world history, geography, civics/government, and economics; standards are divided into United States history, world history: 1000 CE to the present, the governments and economics of the United States and Nebraska, and world geography.

Each standard is accompanied by example indicators. The indicators describe specific content knowledge and skills expected of Nebraska's students. Nebraska also has developed a Social Studies Framework. The framework is based on the themes articulated in the National Council for the Social Studies National Standards.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM

It is a requirement in Nebraska that instruction shall be offered in English, mathematics, science, and social studies for every year in school. High schools must require students in grades 9–12 to earn at least 200 credit hours for graduation, 80 percent of which shall be from the core curriculum. Local districts set specific graduation requirements.

Exit Exam

No exit exam exists in history or social studies.

ASSESSMENT

Nebraska operates under the STARS (School-based Teacher-led Assessment and Reporting System) statewide assessment program. The STARS program requires school districts to adopt content standards in reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, and history that surpass or are equal to the state standards and to engage in assessment and reporting. Content standards assessment began in the 2000–01 school year and takes place in grades 4, 8, and 11. Reading, speaking and listening, writing, and mathematics are currently being phased in and will be complete by 2003–04. According to the STARS brochure, Nebraska also measures students using norm-referenced tests. Other than the NAEP exam and the ACT, the state does not specify which tests it uses. Social studies/history is not mentioned in any of the assessments.