



SOUTH DAKOTA

CERTIFICATION

According to its Title II report, the state of South Dakota issues Type A and Type B certificates for teachers. In order to be eligible for an initial certificate in South Dakota, candidates must meet the standards of an approved teacher preparation program at an accredited institution. All candidates must complete a three-hour course in human relations and a three-hour course on South Dakota Indian studies.

Elementary Certification

Elementary education programs (K–8) must comply with general and professional education standards and include course work that constitutes a major. As part of this course work, two semester hours each are required in United States government, United States history, and geography. Methodology courses are also required.

Middle-Level Certification

Middle school education programs (5–8) must comply with general and professional education standards and include course work that constitutes a major including 18 hours of course work in two content areas. One of those areas must be social science including South Dakota history, U.S. history, world history, government, and geography. A middle-level endorsement requires 12 hours in the content area. In social studies course work, it must be in U.S. history, civics, and geography.

Secondary Certification

Secondary education programs (7–12) must comply with general and professional education standards. The programs also require an academic major or verified occupational work experience that meets the standards of teaching program outlined by the state. In social studies education, at least 50 percent of the course work

must be at the upper-division level. In the social science composite program a comprehensive major must include a balance of course work in the following areas:

- ❖ economics;
- ❖ geography;
- ❖ history: including the study of the origin and historical development of various cultures throughout the world; the interplay of geographical, economic, political, cultural, and social forces in shaping civilizations in the Western and/or non-Western worlds; the meaning of South Dakota and United States heritage; and the economic, political, cultural, and social background of contemporary life in South Dakota and in the United States as related to each other and to the world setting;
- ❖ political science;
- ❖ psychology; and
- ❖ sociology.

An endorsement in social science education requires a methods course and 12 hours in one of the content areas. In history, course work must include South Dakota, United States, and world history, both Western and non-Western.

STANDARDS

Standards for Teachers

South Dakota's teacher standards are described in their regulations from certification that are outlined in the above section.

Standards for Students

According to the document's introduction, the South Dakota Social Studies Content Standards are designed to

- ❖ develop the knowledge and skills of history, geography, civics, and economics that enable students to place the people, ideas, and events that have shaped South Dakota and our nation in perspective;
- ❖ enable students to understand the basic values, principles, and operation of American constitutional democracy;
- ❖ prepare students for informed and responsible citizenship;
- ❖ develop students' skills in debate, discussion, and writings; and
- ❖ provide students with a framework for continuing education in social studies.

History, geography, civics/government, and economics form the basis for the South Dakota Social Studies Content Standards. Standards are organized by grade level and are presented singly at grades K–8 but by subject in grades 9–12. The following scope and sequence is used in South Dakota.

- ❖ Kindergarten: Introduction to History, People, Places, Family, and Self
- ❖ Grade 1: People and Traditions in the United States

- ❖ Grade 2: Historic Groups of People Throughout the World
- ❖ Grade 3: Early Civilizations, Community Governments
- ❖ Grade 4: Study of the U.S. Regions, South Dakota Studies
- ❖ Grade 5: United States History
- ❖ Grade 6: World History/Ancient Civilizations
- ❖ Grade 7: World Geography
- ❖ Grade 8: United States History
- ❖ Grades 9–12: United States History, Geography, Civics (Government)

The following goals guide the social studies in South Dakota.

- ❖ Students will understand the emergence and development of civilization over time and place (history).
- ❖ Students will understand the interrelationships of people, places, and the environment (geography).
- ❖ Students will understand the historical development and contemporary role of government power and authority (civics/government).
- ❖ Students will understand the impact of economics on the development of societies and on current and emerging national and international situations (economics).

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM

Students in South Dakota must complete 3 units in social studies in order to graduate from high school. These units must consist of

- ❖ U.S. history—one unit;
- ❖ U.S. government—one-half unit; and
- ❖ geography—one-half unit.

To meet the Regents Scholar requirements students must take 3 units of social studies (history, economics, sociology, geography, government including U.S. and South Dakota, American problems, etc.).

Exit Exam

No information has been located at this point.

ASSESSMENT

State law in South Dakota mandates that all students in grades 3, 6, and 10 take a criterion-referenced test that is correlated with the state’s graduation requirements, course guidelines, and content standards. The Dakota Assessment of Content Standards (DACS) test is administered online to students. As a Standards Adaptive Measurements, it adjusts the test items based on a student’s ability level. Testing currently takes place in reading, math, science, and language arts. State law in South Dakota also mandates that all students in grades 2, 4, 8, and 11 take the SAT 9 criterion reference test. Although the state law requires testing correlated with graduation requirements and content standards, no indication of preparation for or phasing in of a social studies test has been located.

