



## GEORGIA

### CERTIFICATION

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission certifies teachers in the state of Georgia. Georgia offers professional, emergency, provisional, and probationary certificates. According to the Professional Standards Commission, in order to qualify for a professional certificate in the teaching field of history an applicant must complete an approved program in the field and satisfy special Georgia requirements. Each university in Georgia determines the approved program. All state universities are NCATE approved, and private universities are either NCATE approved or have received accreditation through a private accreditation process approved through the state. Praxis tests are required for certification. Passing the Praxis I and Praxis II tests in social studies is required to obtain a teaching certificate in history. The same is true for someone acquiring provisional certification in history.

Field-specific content standards for approved programs have been designed in Georgia. For elementary education the standards mainly emphasize child and curriculum development. The middle grade standards require programs to conform to the standards for *Initial Programs in Middle Level Teacher Education*, published by the National Middle School Association. Candidates are required to be prepared in at least two areas of concentration (language arts, mathematics, science, social science, or reading). Fifteen hours in content that conform to the middle-level content standards established by their national specialty organizations are required. Therefore, middle school teachers in Georgia must conform to standards established by the National Council for the Social Studies.

For secondary teachers (certified 7–12) programs may be offered in the broad field of social science teachers education or in specific fields of economics, geography, history, and political science. Programs must require students to demonstrate competence in knowledge in at least four of the five disciplines of social science (behavioral science, economics, geography, history, and political science).

Demonstration of competence must be equal to a major or equivalent in one of the specialty fields. All programs and specialty programs must conform to the *Interdisciplinary Standards for Initial Preparation of Teachers of Social Studies for Middle/Junior High and Secondary Teaching* and to the *Initial Preparation of Teachers of Social Studies for Middle/Junior High and Secondary Teaching*, published by the National Council for the Social Studies.

Specification regarding the teaching of history at the secondary level does exist under the qualifications for a provisional certificate. In addition to assessment requirements and other stipulations, an applicant for a provisional certificate must have a bachelor's degree or higher in history or must have a bachelor's degree or higher in any field and have 40 quarter hours in history content including 10 in U.S. history, 10 in world history, and 5 in non-Western history with at least 20 hours earned above the sophomore level.

## **STANDARDS**

### **Standards for Teachers**

According to Georgia's Title II report, the standards to which teachers are held accountable are those mentioned in the above section on certification. The NCATE 2000 standards have been adapted for Georgia as the Georgia 2000 standards and are applicable to candidate performance. Georgia also uses the National Middle School Association content standards and the National Learned Society content standards for appropriate academic areas at the secondary level.

### **Standards for Students**

In 1995 Georgia revised its Quality Core Curriculum. Revisions to the QCC for social studies occurred in 2002–03. The QCC includes content standards for all subjects K–8 and 9–12 in social studies. Georgia's QCC in social studies addresses civics, core social study skills, economics, geography, and history. At each grade level, K–8, the state identifies the relevant strand (Civics, Core Social Study Skills, Economics, Geography, and History) and then selects several topics that fit under that strand. A standard then appears below the topic that describes what the student should know or be able to do. Core skills are highlighted when appropriate.

In the history strand, topics vary according to grade level. At times a topic is repeated within a grade level and more than one standard is written for that topic. Under the standard, key points of emphasis are sometimes highlighted and identified as a "core skill." The QCC for social studies in grades 9–12 is organized by courses. Courses are presented alphabetically and include American government, anthropology, Asian studies, civics/citizenship, comparative political/economic systems, comparative religion, constitutional theory, core social study skills, current issues, economics, ethnic studies, humanities, individual and the law, Latin American studies, psychology, sociology, U.S. and world affairs, U.S. history, world geography, and world history.

## **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM**

Georgia students can enroll in a college preparatory program or a technical career program of study in high school. Three credits are required in social studies

regardless of the program of study in which a student enrolls. These credits include:

- ❖ American history—1 unit;
- ❖ U.S. government—½ unit;
- ❖ economics—½ unit (may be AP); and
- ❖ world history—1 unit (world history required for college prep and world studies/world geography acceptable for technical/career).

### **Exit Exam**

Georgia students are required to take the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT) in order to earn a diploma. Social studies is included on this exam. The content covered on the test includes

- ❖ world studies—18–20%;
- ❖ U.S. history to 1865—18–20%;
- ❖ U.S. history since 1865—18–20%;
- ❖ civics/citizenship—12–14%;
- ❖ map and globe skills—15%; and
- ❖ information processing skills—15%.

### **ASSESSMENT**

Students in Georgia undergo testing through both criterion-referenced tests and norm-referenced tests. The Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) are based on the revised Quality Core Curriculum. Students in grades 3–8 are assessed in social studies on the CRCT. Georgia students also take the norm-reference Stanford 9 test. Third graders, fifth graders, and eighth graders take this exam in social studies. On June 13, 2002, the state Board of Education approved a resolution that gives local school systems the option of administering the norm-referenced test.

Eight end-of-course (EOC) exams are also required of Georgia students as of spring 2003. In social studies, EOC exams are required in U.S. history and economics. For EOC examination purposes, the content standards in the QCC were grouped into six content domains based on shared content characteristics. The content domains identified and tested for U.S. history include

- ❖ social studies skills: maps, timelines, and research;
- ❖ colonization to the Constitution;
- ❖ A New Nation (1790–1860);
- ❖ Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Industrial Age (1860–1910);
- ❖ world power and domestic reform (1896–1940); and
- ❖ the modern era (1940 to the present).

Overviews of the domains and associated QCC concepts, skills, and abilities are provided in the U.S. History Content Description Guide.

