



MINNESOTA

Note: According to representatives from the state, the new administration wants to overhaul the system, so all could change.

CERTIFICATION

According to its Title II report, Minnesota offers Type B certification. Professional licenses in Minnesota are valid for five years and can be renewed.

Elementary Certification

Elementary licenses enable teachers to teach all subjects to students through grade 6 and a selected academic specialty (such as social studies) to students in grades 5–8. Candidates must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, demonstrate standards for effective practice, and complete a Board of Teaching preparation program. Fundamental social studies concepts and connections among ideas that social studies teachers at this level must know can be found in Chapter 8710.3200, subpart 3, section D of the Minnesota Rules. No specific course hour requirements have been located.

Middle-Level Certification

Middle level teachers are authorized to teach areas of academic specialty to students in grades 5–8. A middle-level licensure candidate must hold one or more licenses granted by the Board of Teaching and have completed a preparation program designed for middle-level specialization. The subject matter standards relevant to the area of specialty must also be met. No specific course hour requirements have been located.

Secondary Certification

Social studies teachers are authorized to instruct students in grades 5–12. Candidates for licensure must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, demonstrate the standards of effective practice, and verify completion

of a program that enables teachers to demonstrate the skills outlined in the Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8710.4800, subpart 3. No specific course hour requirements have been located.

STANDARDS

Standards for Teachers

Minnesota has designed standards for its teachers in social studies. These standards are listed as part of the certification requirements in the Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8710. Subpart 3 in each of the respective grade-level certification categories addresses standards related to content knowledge. At the secondary level, the following social studies concepts are placed at the forefront:

- ❖ Culture and Cultural Diversity
- ❖ The Ways Human Beings View Themselves In and Over Time
- ❖ People, Places, and Environments
- ❖ Individual Development and Identity
- ❖ Interactions Among Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
- ❖ How People Create and Change Structures of Power, Authority, and Governance
- ❖ How People Organize for Production, Distribution, and Consumption of Goods and Services
- ❖ Relationships Among Science, Technology, and Society
- ❖ Global Connections and Interdependence
- ❖ Ideals, Principles, and Practices of Citizenship in a Democratic Republic

Standards for Students

Minnesota developed High Standards to guide students' development and progress in 10 learning areas. The Social Studies High Standards are grouped into four grade-level categories: Primary (K–3), Intermediate (4–5), Middle (6–8), and High (9–12). Standards are designated for each level and objectives are outlined within the standards. Traditional disciplines found in social studies can be observed in the standards, but no set standards for each discipline across every grade level exist. There are history and social studies-related standards in the “inquiry” learning area including: history of science, history through culture, history of the arts, recorders of history, issue analysis, world history and cultures, and social science processes and case study. The following are the standards in social studies in Minnesota:

- ❖ Primary Level, Grades K–3
 1. Standard: Family, School, and Community
 2. Intermediate Level, Grades 4–5
 3. Standard: Historical Events
 4. Standard: Geography and Citizenship
- ❖ Middle Level, Grades 6–8

1. Standard: Current Issue Analysis
 2. Standard: Geography and Culture
 3. Standard: History and Citizenship
- ❖ High School Level, Grades 9–12
1. Standard: United States Citizenship
 2. Standard: Diverse Perspectives
 3. Standard: Human Geography
 4. Standard: Institutions and Traditions in Society
 5. Standard: Community Interaction
 6. Standard: Themes of United States History

Connected to the standards online are sample learning activities and assessment tasks, descriptions of large processes and concepts, and scoring criteria for assessment.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM

No specific courses or units required for graduation have been located. The state’s web site indicates that Minnesota Graduation Standards have been designed by teachers, parents, and community members to ensure that all students have the knowledge and skills necessary for future success. The web site then refers to the High Standards. A student’s record must reflect achievement of the number of standards required by the school district.

Exit Exam

Students must pass Basic Skills Tests in reading, mathematics, and written composition to be eligible for high school graduation. Basic Skills Tests are given beginning in grade 8. No mention is made of testing in history/social studies.

ASSESSMENT

The Minnesota Statewide Assessment system is comprised of four programs: Basic Skills Tests, the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments, the Test of Emerging Academic English, and the Alternate Assessments for Special Education. Tests are administered in reading, writing, and mathematics. There is no evidence that testing takes place in history/social studies. However, the Minnesota statues require that “at the high school level districts shall assess student performance in all required learning areas and selected required standards within each area of the profile of learning.”

