



MISSISSIPPI

CERTIFICATION

According to its Title II report, Mississippi certifies teachers using Type A, B, and C licenses. The state labels these licenses Class A, Class AA, Class AAA, and Class AAAA licenses. The Class A (initial) license requires the candidate to possess a bachelor's degree from a state-approved or NCATE-approved program and to pass the appropriate general and content specialty exams. Alternative certification is available to candidates who have a bachelor's degree but have not completed a state-approved or NCATE-approved program. In addition to the aforementioned exams, nine additional hours of credit in education courses is required.

Elementary Certification

Elementary programs for K–4 teachers include an interdisciplinary program of study. As part of this interdisciplinary program, 12 hours in social studies are required. For upper elementary certification (grades 4–8) teachers must meet the K–4 requirements and have two areas of concentration each consisting of 18 hours of course work.

Secondary Certification

To be licensed in grades 7–12 teachers must have a major in an academic field other than education or must major in a combination of disciplines.

STANDARDS

Standards for Teachers

The state Board of Education in Mississippi has mandated the NTASC standards for all teachers. In the state's Title II report when questioned about standards, the state refers the reader to the course requirements necessary for certification.

Standards for Students

The Mississippi Social Studies Framework draws upon four strands within social studies: history, geography, civics, and economics. The framework is organized by grade level, and elective courses for secondary students are located at the end of the document. Three high school options pertaining to the offering of specific courses and electives are provided by the state. The elementary and middle-level programs follow an expanding format while high school courses focus on depth of content. At each grade level and for the high school courses, strands, competencies, objectives, suggested teaching strategies, and suggested assessments are provided. The competencies combine the four strands and are required to be taught. The sample objectives are optional, and school districts are encouraged to draw from these and create their own objectives. Benchmarks are identified in grades 4, 8, and 12.

At each grade level a description/rationale for that grade's emphasis is provided. The relevant strands are identified within the competencies. A Curriculum Guide accompanies the framework at every grade level. The state stresses that the Curriculum Guide is a set of topics designed only to be the starting point for instruction. The suggestion is made that teachers develop the strategies outlined in the Curriculum Guide.

The Mississippi Social Studies Framework uses the following sequence:

- ❖ Kindergarten: Self/Home
- ❖ First Grade: Family/School
- ❖ Second Grade: School/Neighborhood
- ❖ Third Grade: Community/Local Government
- ❖ Fourth Grade: Mississippi Studies
- ❖ Fifth Grade: United States Studies
- ❖ Sixth Grade: Western Hemisphere Studies
- ❖ Seventh Grade: Eastern Hemisphere Studies
- ❖ Eighth Grade: United States History to 1877
- ❖ High School Options (9th–12th grades)
 1. Economics
 2. Introduction to World Geography
 3. Advanced World Geography
 4. Psychology
 5. Sociology
 6. Biblical History of the Ancient Middle East: 2000 BC to 100 AD
 7. Local Resource Studies
 8. Law Related Education
 9. Problems in American Democracy
- ❖ High School Options (7th–12th grades)
 1. Introduction to Social Studies

2. Local Culture
3. Future Studies
4. Field Experiences
5. Global Studies
6. Minority Studies
7. Humanities I
8. Humanities II

World history 1750 to the present and U.S. history to 1877 to the present are included in all options outlined for high school.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM

The state of Mississippi requires its students to complete three Carnegie units in social studies to be able to graduate from high school. The three units include

- ❖ One unit United States history;
- ❖ One unit world history;
- ❖ One-half unit United States government; and
- ❖ One-half unit Mississippi studies.

Exit Exam

Beginning in the 2001–02 school year, new graduation testing requirements were phased in. These new requirements, academic end-of-course exams in Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and U.S. History from 1877 to the present, are aligned with the Curriculum Frameworks. They replace the Functional Literacy Exam.

ASSESSMENT

The state of Mississippi administers criterion-referenced Mississippi Curriculum Tests (part of the GLTP—Grade Level Testing Program) to its students in grades 2–8 in reading, writing, and mathematics. Fifth and eighth graders take the norm-reference Terra Nova test in reading/language and mathematics. Mississippi also takes the NAEP exam in reading and mathematics. No social studies exams are given. U.S. history from 1877 is tested as part of the SATP (Subject Area Testing Program).

