



NEVADA

CERTIFICATION

According to its Title II report, Nevada certifies teachers with Type A, B, and C certificates.

Elementary Certification

In order to be certified to teach grades K–8, candidates in Nevada must hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university and must have completed an approved program of elementary preparation. Candidates must have 32 hours in elementary professional preparation including 9 hours in methods of teaching basic mathematics, science, and social studies. To receive an endorsement, educators must complete 12 hours of credit within the endorsement area.

Middle-Level Certification

A teacher holding a secondary license that is endorsed for a recognized field of teaching can teach in a departmentalized seventh or eighth grade, a junior high school, an approved middle school, and a senior high school. The endorsement is based on the candidate’s field of specialization or concentration, which is usually designed as a major or minor area of concentration.

Secondary Certification

Recipients of a secondary license must hold a bachelor’s degree and have

- ❖ completed a program of preparation for secondary teaching; or
- ❖ completed required courses for a teaching major from an accredited institution and have 22 hours in professional secondary education.

Single-subject major and minors and comprehensive major and minors are recognized by Nevada.

- ❖ A single subject major or minor in history requires 30 or 16 credit hours respectively.

- ❖ A comprehensive major in social studies must include at least 3 semester hours in each of the following areas, 24 of which must have been in subject areas 5, 6, and 7:
 1. economics;
 2. geography;
 3. psychology or sociology;
 4. ethnic studies;
 5. political science;
 6. history of the United States; and
 7. history of the world.
- ❖ A comprehensive minor in social studies requires 24 credit hours: 3 hours each must be in any four of the areas listed above, and at least 16 hours must be in areas 5, 6, and 7.

STANDARDS

Standards for Teachers

In its Title II report the state of Nevada refers to content and performance standards for its teachers. These standards reflect the requirements mentioned above for certification. No other specific content standards have been located.

Standards for Students

Nevada has developed Social Studies Standards that address four content areas: civics, economics, geography, and history. Each strand is presented individually. The history strand is divided into 10 standards, including both history skills and content. The first and second standards outline skills students need to acquire historical understanding. Standards 3–10 examine the major eras and concepts pertinent to United States history, world history, and Nevada history. Benchmarks are identified for grades 2, 3, 5, 8, and 12. The state noted that the standards make use of the terms *including*, *such as*, and *for example* in very specific ways. *Including* indicates specific topics or ideas considered vital to student learning, but teachers are not limited to only using these ideas. *Such as* and *for example* indicate suggestions for teachers. At the bottom of each of the standards relevant vocabulary words are clarified.

- ❖ Standard 1: Chronology: Students use chronology to organize and understand the sequence and relationship of events.
- ❖ Standard 2: History Skills: Students will use social studies vocabulary and concepts to engage in inquiry, in research, in analysis, and in decision making.
- ❖ Standard 3: Prehistory to 400 CE: Students understand the development of human societies, civilizations, and empires through 400 CE.
- ❖ Standard 4: 1 CE to 1400: Students understand the characteristics, ideas, and significance of civilizations and religions from 1 CE to 1400.

- ❖ Standard 5: 1200 to 1750: Students understand the impact of the interaction of peoples, cultures, and ideas from 1200 to 1750.
- ❖ Standard 6: 1700–1865: Students understand the people, events, ideas, and conflicts that led to the creation of new nations and distinctive cultures.
- ❖ Standard 7: 1860–1920: Students understand the importance and impact of political, economic, and social ideas.
- ❖ Standard 8: The Twentieth Century, a Changing World: 1920 to 1945: Students understand the importance and effect of political, economic, technological, and social changes in the world from 1920 to 1945.
- ❖ Standard 9: The Twentieth Century, a Changing World: 1945 to 1990: Students understand the shift of international relationships and power as well as the significant developments in American culture.
- ❖ Standard 10: New Challenges: 1990 to the Present: Students understand the political, economic, social, and technological issues challenging the world as it approaches and enters the new millennium.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM

Students are required to complete 22.5 courses in order to be able to graduate from high school. Local districts have the option of adding credit requirements. There are 15 units of core courses that all students must complete. Two of these credits are in social studies:

- ❖ American government—1 unit; and
- ❖ American history—1 unit.

Exit Exam

Students in Nevada must pass the Nevada High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) in reading, math, and writing in order to earn a diploma. No exam in social studies/history is required for graduation.

ASSESSMENT

One of the key long-term objectives identified by the Nevada Department of Education’s Office of Assessments, Curricula, and Instructional Support is to develop and administer statewide assessments, which are aligned with the content and performance standards. No evidence of current assessment in Nevada in history/social studies has been located.

