



## **OKLAHOMA**

### **CERTIFICATION**

According to its Title II report, Oklahoma certifies teachers through Type A and Type B certification. A license is issued to teachers who have completed a teacher education program and who have zero years of teaching experience. After participation in a residency program during the initial year of teaching, candidates can be recommended by a residency committee for certification. A certificate is issued to an educator with at least one year of teaching experience in a state or regionally accredited school.

### **Elementary Licensure**

A bachelor's degree is required to obtain a license at the elementary level. Candidates are required to have subject area concentrations that qualify them as generalists. Twelve semester hours in four core areas are required. These areas include math, science, English, and social studies.

### **Middle Licensure**

No specific information has been located.

### **Secondary Licensure**

A bachelor's degree is required to obtain a license at the secondary level. Candidates must have an undergraduate major or its equivalent in the subject area they wish to teach.

### **STANDARDS**

#### **Standards for Teachers**

Oklahoma has adopted standards for licensure and certification and standards of performance and conduct for teachers. The Full, Subject-matter Competencies for

Licensure and Certification reflect standards recognized by NCATE. The state specifies general competencies, competencies for elementary educators, middle-level competencies, and competencies for social studies teachers. The latter competencies address specifically United States history/Oklahoma history/government/economics, world history/geography, and psychology/sociology.

## **Standards for Students**

Oklahoma labels its standards program the Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS). While Oklahoma defines social studies in a way similar to the National Council for the Social Studies definition (an alphabetical listing of humanities and social science disciplines), the state emphasizes five areas of core content: history, geography, civics, economics, and government. Ten themes guide the Oklahoma K–12 Social Studies Framework, and these themes follow the approach outlined by the National Council for the Social Studies.

The standards are presented by grade level in the elementary grades and as courses at the high school level. Topics/points of focus are first identified and explained, and then standards with accompanying descriptors are listed. Benchmarks appear at grade 5 in geography and U.S. history, Constitution, and government. They occur at grade 8 for U.S. history, Constitution, and government from 1760–1860. Benchmarks for an end-of-instruction exam occur for U.S. history from 1850–1975 at the secondary level. The following topics appear at each grade level:

- ❖ First Grade: Neighborhoods and Communities;
- ❖ Second Grade: Community;
- ❖ Third Grade: Interrelationships Among Communities Using Global Perspectives;
- ❖ Fourth Grade: Regional U.S. Geography Including Oklahoma;
- ❖ Fifth Grade: U.S. History to 1850;
- ❖ Sixth Grade: World Studies;
- ❖ Seventh Grade: World Geography;
- ❖ Eighth Grade: U.S. History 1760–1877.

The following high school subjects are included:

- ❖ economics;
- ❖ Oklahoma history;
- ❖ U.S. government;
- ❖ U.S. history 1850 to the present;
- ❖ world geography; and
- ❖ world history.

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

In order to graduate from high school in Oklahoma, students must earn a total of 23 credits. Three of these credits must be in social studies. Required courses include:

- ❖ United States history—one credit;
- ❖ United States government—one-half to one credit;
- ❖ Oklahoma history—one-half credit; and
- ❖ one-half to 1 credit that may include but is not limited to world history, geography, economics, anthropology, or other social science courses, with content and/or rigor equal to or above U.S. history, U.S. government, and Oklahoma history.

### **Exit Exam**

Students in Oklahoma take end-of-instruction exams. It is not apparent whether high school graduation is contingent upon passing these exams. End-of-instruction exams are administered in English II, U.S. history, Algebra I, and Biology I. The end-of-instruction exam in U.S. history focuses on the time period from 1850 to 1975 (specifically the Compromise of 1850 to U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam).

### **ASSESSMENT**

The Oklahoma School Testing Program includes both norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests. Norm-referenced tests are administered to third graders in reading, mathematics, and language arts. The Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests (OCCT) are criterion-referenced exams based on the Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS). Students in grades 5 and 8 take the OCCTs in reading, writing, mathematics, science, U.S. history, geography, and the arts. End-of-Instruction exams are also part of the OCCTs and are based on the Priority Academic Student Skills. The 5th grade U.S. history test examines students in U.S. history, the Constitution, and government from 1492 to 1800. The eighth grade exam assesses students' knowledge of history, the Constitution, and government from 1760 to 1860.

