



SOUTH CAROLINA

CERTIFICATION

According to its Title II report, South Carolina offers Type A, Type B, and Type C certification. For initial licensure candidates must have earned a bachelor's degree, completed an accredited teacher education program, and passed the required examinations. After the completion of an induction program, teachers are eligible for a professional certificate. The State Board of Education in South Carolina is replacing individual course requirements for certification with Standards Based Teacher Certification requirements. This new policy is scheduled to go into effect by July 1, 2003. All teachers are required to pass specific ETS tests for certification. Some are already fixed while other "new" tests are being phased in. Each accredited (NCATE) institution sets its own course of study. These vary from institution to institution. Some offer undergraduate programs while others require an undergraduate subject degree and they offer a master of arts in teaching.

Elementary Certification

No specific information has been located.

Middle-Level Certification

To be certified to teach middle-level social studies in South Carolina, candidates must have

- ❖ 3 hours of social studies teaching methods;
- ❖ 3 hours of world history or world geography;
- ❖ 3 hours of South Carolina or U.S. history;
- ❖ 3 hours of government; and
- ❖ 9 hours of electives in three subject areas: anthropology, economics, political science/civics, geography, sociology.

Secondary Certification

Specialized preparation in social studies requires

- ❖ Six hours of U.S. history;
- ❖ Six hours of European history;
- ❖ Twelve hours of electives from economics, government, geography, and sociology (not more than 6 hours in one field); and
- ❖ Six hours of electives from economics, geography, government, history, psychology, sociology, and the history of religion.

Specialized certification in history requires

- ❖ Six hours in U.S. history;
- ❖ Six hours in European history; and
- ❖ Six hours of electives from history and/or government.

Certification is granted in any one of the following subjects if the candidate has completed twelve hours of course work: economics, geography, government, psychology, and sociology.

STANDARDS

Standards for Teachers

South Carolina is currently creating performance-based standards for certification. These standards must be in place by July 1, 2003. According to the state's Title II report, content standards do exist for elementary and secondary teachers. These standards have not yet been located. All teacher education programs must meet the performance-based standards as established by NCATE.

Standards for Students

The Office of Curriculum and Standards oversees standards development in South Carolina. The South Carolina Social Studies Curriculum Standards as a document provides educators with information and recommendations pertaining to teaching and learning in the social studies, specific lists of the standards, guidelines for elective courses, professional development, assessment, instructional materials and resources, and systematic support for the social studies.

The standards include four core areas: history, government/political science, geography, and economics. According to the state, the standards in South Carolina were derived from such national standards documents as the National Standards for History, the National Standards for Civics and Government, the National Geography Standards, and the National Economics Standards. The standards in South Carolina are organized into four strands that correspond roughly with the four disciplines included in the document.

- ❖ Strand I: Time, Continuity, and Change: History
- ❖ Strand II: Power, Authority, and Governance: Government/Political Science
- ❖ Strand III: People, Places, and Environments: Geography

❖ Strand IV: Production, Distribution, and Consumption: Economics

Process and content standards are outlined for each of the strands. The process standards relate to and are embedded in the content standards. Process standards for the history strand (Strand I) include

- ❖ chronological thinking;
- ❖ historical comprehension;
- ❖ historical analysis and interpretation;
- ❖ historical research capabilities; and
- ❖ historical issues: analysis and decision-making.

Grade-specific standards and benchmarks are also included. Grade standards intend for content to be addressed in the following scope and sequence.

- ❖ Grades K–2: Introduction to Social Studies
- ❖ Grade 3: Introduction to Social Studies/South Carolina Studies
- ❖ Grade 4: U.S. Studies to 1877
- ❖ Grade 5: U.S. Studies 1877 to Present
- ❖ Grade 6: Early Cultures through 1500s
- ❖ Grade 7: Contemporary World Regions
- ❖ Grade 8: U.S. and South Carolina Studies
- ❖ Grades 9–10: Global Studies (World Geography/World History)
- ❖ Grades 11–12: U. S. and South Carolina Studies, Government/Economics

The state provides recommendations for integrating and incorporating the standards and has outlined examples of successful use of the standards at the 4th, 7th, and 9th grade levels.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM

Students in South Carolina must earn 24 units in order to graduate from high school. Three units are required in social studies. These units include

- ❖ U. S. history and Constitution—1 unit;
- ❖ economics—½ unit;
- ❖ U.S. government—½ unit; and
- ❖ other social studies—1 unit.

Exit Exam

Students must also pass an exit examination in order to graduate from high school. The state is in the process of revising the test it requires as an exit exam. The current High School Exit Examination is part of the previously used Basic Skills Assessment Program (BSAP). This program no longer guides assessments in South Carolina. The new assessment is intended to be more rigorous than the BSAP Exit Exam it will replace. Tenth graders will take the new exam for the first time in 2004. Proposed content for the exam includes English language arts and mathematics. According to an implementation timeline, test development for an exit exam in social studies “will begin when adequate opportunity to learn has been established.”

ASSESSMENT

South Carolina's assessment system consists of several components. Norm-referenced and criterion-referenced testing occurs in South Carolina. Kindergarteners and 1st graders take a general assessment entitled the South Carolina Readiness Assessment (SCRA). A norm-referenced test, the Terra Nova, is administered to a representative sample of students in grades 3–8 at three grade levels on a rotating cycle each year. The Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests (PACT) are criterion-referenced tests that will ultimately include English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Social studies is scheduled to become operational in 2003, but the test had not been approved for administration at the time of this writing. End-of course examinations are also being developed for gateway or benchmark courses in grades 9–12. The examinations will count for 20 percent of the students' final grade in Algebra I/Math for the Technologies II, English I, Physical Science, Biology I/Applied Biology II, and U.S. History and Constitution. U.S. History and Constitution is scheduled for baseline implementation in 2006–07.