



UTAH

CERTIFICATION

According to its Title II report, the state of Utah issues Type A, B, and C licenses. Initial certificates in Utah are called basic certificates, and they are valid for four years. Standard certificates may be issued after two years of successful teaching and upon recommendation of the candidate's school board. Utah utilizes an approved program approach to certification, meaning that a candidate is eligible for certification if he/she has completed an approved program and secures a formal recommendation from that program.

Elementary Certification

Elementary certificates are required for teaching in grades 1–8. A 1–8 certified teacher may teach any subject in grades 1–6 but must be subject endorsed to teach the subject in grades 7 and 8. No specific required course work has been located.

Middle-Level Certification

A special middle-level certificate is not required for teachers who teach middle school.

Secondary Certification

The secondary certificate enables teachers to teach in grades 6–12. A major and minor or a composite major are required. The candidate will be endorsed for all subjects in which he/she has at least a minor, has completed equivalent training, or has demonstrated competence in the subject as established by the Utah State Board of Education. Teaching majors require not fewer than 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours. At least one-half of these hours must be in upper-division course work. A minor includes not less than sixteen semester hours or twenty-four quarter hours. A composite major includes not less than forty-six semester hours or sixty-nine quarter hours distributed in two or more related subjects. A

composite major in social studies requires a minimum of sixteen hours in history (world, U.S., and Utah). In social studies, endorsements are available in geography, history, political science, sociology, psychology, anthropology, and economics. In history sixteen semester hours are required for an endorsement including U.S. history (exploration to the present); world history (ancient and modern); Utah history; specialized history courses (European, Asian, African, Latin-American, women's, social, economics, constitutional, ethnic); social studies; and/or history teaching methods. To be eligible for a Utah studies endorsement, candidates must have eight semester hours/twelve quarter hours including two hours in Utah history, two hours in Utah geography, two hours of specialized Utah studies courses (Native Americans, pioneers, minorities, women, architecture, environmental issues, government, economics, water), and teaching methods in social studies and/or Utah studies and/or history. Teachers who teach three or more Utah studies courses per day must have a history minor or its equivalent.

STANDARDS

Standards for Teachers

Utah requires all higher education institutions with teacher preparation programs to adhere to NCATE standards, including INTASC standards. Higher education institutions can decide whether or not to become NCATE accredited, but they must all follow NCATE standards. In the INTASC standards, the first standard refers to content: The teacher candidate understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) he or she teaches and can create learning experiences that make these aspects of subject matter meaningful for students.

Standards for Students

The Utah Social Studies Standards are identified within courses that are organized according to grade level. In the K–6 standards, standards are organized according to three categories: time, people, and places. Under each of the standards in their respective categories there are objectives. Course descriptions are included for each grade level. K–6 students in Utah study the following courses.

- ❖ Level K: Self, Family, and School
- ❖ Level 1: School and Neighborhood Communities
- ❖ Level 2: Local Communities
- ❖ Level 3: Environment and Indigenous Communities
- ❖ Level 4: Utah Studies
- ❖ Level 5: United States History and Government
- ❖ Level 6: Ancient World Civilizations and European Influence

Beginning with seventh grade, standards are identified for each course, but they are not categorized by time, people, and places. Instead the standards are followed by objectives and indicators. The standards in the courses designed in grades 7–12 generally follow a chronological approach.

- ❖ Level 7: Utah Studies
- ❖ Level 8: United States History I
- ❖ Level 10–12: World Civilizations
- ❖ Levels 9–12: Geography for Life
- ❖ Unspecified Level: United States Government and Citizenship
- ❖ Level 10–12: United States History II

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM

Students in Utah must earn a minimum of 24 credits to graduate. Local boards may require additional units of credit. Three units of credit are required in social studies. These units include

- ❖ geography for life—one-half credit;
- ❖ world civilizations—one-half credit;
- ❖ U.S. history—one credit;
- ❖ U.S. government and citizenship—one-half credit; and
- ❖ elective social studies class—one-half credit.

Exit Exam

No information has been located at this time.

ASSESSMENT

Utah’s assessment system is titled U-Pass. There are seven assessments that are part of the U-Pass system. These include Core Assessment Criterion Referenced Tests in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science; Reading Diagnostic Instruments; Direct Writing Assessment; a Norm-Referenced Achievement Test (currently the Stanford Achievement Test, 9th Edition taken in reading/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies); the Utah Basic Skills Competency Test in reading, writing, and mathematics; the Utah Alternative Assessment (for special needs students); and the NAEP in reading, writing, mathematics, and science. The Stanford 9 in social studies is a multiple-choice test administered in grades 3, 5, 8, and 11.

