



## **WASHINGTON**

### **CERTIFICATION**

According to its Title II report, Washington issues Type A and Type B certificates. The initial license issued in Washington is the residency certificate. It is valid for the first five years one teaches in Washington. To be eligible to receive a residency certificate, candidates must have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university and have completed a state-approved teacher preparation program that includes content and methodology. All candidates must have a primary endorsement field.

### **Elementary Certification**

Elementary teachers need to complete the state-approved preparation program with appropriate content and pedagogy courses. They must have 30 semester hours in multiple areas including social studies and history. Hours in these areas are not specified.

### **Middle-Level Certification**

Middle-level teachers must have completed a state-approved program with appropriate pedagogy courses. Middle-level teachers need 30 semester hours consisting of a primary area comprised of 20 hours in either the humanities or math and science. The humanities component requires 6 hours in language arts and 6 hours in social studies with the remaining hours taken from either to total 20. A supporting area consisting of 10 hours must also be obtained.

### **Secondary Certification**

A primary endorsement in history requires the completion of a state-approved preparation program in history comprised of pedagogy courses and field experiences. Thirty hours in the following subject areas are required: Pacific Northwest history, United States history including chronological, thematic, multicultural,

ethnic, and women's history; world, regional, or country history; civics/political science/United States government; geography; and economics. An endorsement in social studies requires pedagogy courses and field experiences with 40 hours in the subject areas below. Sixteen of the 40 hours must be in history: Pacific Northwest history; United States history including chronological, thematic, multicultural, ethnic, and women's history; world, regional, or country history; geography; political science, civics, or government; anthropology, psychology, or sociology; and economics.

A supporting endorsement in history requires 16 hours.

## **STANDARDS**

### **Standards for Teachers**

The state of Washington has created knowledge and skills standards to which all teachers must adhere. More specific standards are identified in the Washington Administrative Code, 180-78A and 180-82. They consist of the endorsement requirements explained in the above sections on certification.

### **Standards for Students**

The state of Washington has developed Essential Academic Learning Requirements for its students. It must be noted that a new version of the standards was due to be released in October 2002. The new standards have not yet appeared online. In social studies, the current standards are divided into five strands: history, geography, civics, economics, and social studies skills. Two standards exist in the history strand.

- ❖ The student examines and understands major ideas, eras, themes, developments, turning points, chronology, and cause-effect relationships in the United States, world, and Washington state history.
- ❖ The student understands the origin and impact of ideas and technological developments on history.

Under these standards, the state has identified specific performances in which students will engage. These performance descriptors are addressed at three benchmark levels, grades 5, 8, and 10. Specific objectives are identified at the respective benchmark levels under the categories of United States history, world history, and Washington state history. Specific requirements are also developed following the same format for grade 11.

A similar pattern is followed for standards in geography, civics, and economics. Social Studies Skills have three standards:

- ❖ Inquiry and Information Skills;
- ❖ Interpersonal and Group Process Skills; and
- ❖ Critical Thinking Skills.

It appears that these skills are cross-referenced with skills in such other content areas as communication, reading, writing, and mathematics.

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

Students in Washington must earn a total of 19 credits in order to graduate from high school. Of these nineteen credits, two and one-half must be in social studies. The social studies requirements include

- ❖ United States history and government—one credit;
- ❖ Washington state history and government—one-half credit; and
- ❖ contemporary world history, geography, and problems—one credit.

### **Exit Exam**

Assessments in social studies for graduation shall be determined at the local level. The state has no requirements. All students in Washington must complete a culminating project prior to graduation. Students may select the topic, their mentor, and the form of presentation. Each district is to set the criteria and assessment process.

### **ASSESSMENT**

Assessments in Washington include the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL), the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS), and the Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED). None of these tests assess students in social studies. A social studies assessment is being developed by the Social Studies Assessment Visioning Task Force. According to the assessment timeline, pilots will occur during the 2002–03 and 2003–04 school years. A final assessment model is scheduled to be determined during the 2003–04 school year.

