



WISCONSIN

CERTIFICATION

According to its Title II report, Wisconsin issues Type A, B, and C licenses. The Type A license is a two-year provisional license for out of state teachers. Type B licenses serve as the initial license in Wisconsin. Candidates must hold a bachelor's degree and have completed a state approved program.

The state of Wisconsin is in the process of implementing a new law, PI 34, pertaining to certification. This new law stipulates that in order to achieve certification in Wisconsin, teachers will be required to demonstrate competency in the subjects they teach. Each university in the state is devising appropriate course work and testing that will enable candidates to demonstrate competency and obtain licensure. The law will go into effect in 2004, so most universities are in the process of implementing new programs. A review of the programs has begun as of this writing. Elementary, middle, and secondary teachers are responsible for demonstrating competencies, and grades 7–12 social studies teachers must demonstrate competency in the Wisconsin Model Academic Social Studies Standards.

STANDARDS

Standards for Teachers

In the standards section of its Title II report, the state of Wisconsin referred readers to the current initial licensure requirements. No separate content standards in social studies have been located. Under current rules (PI 3) there are no separate standards for teachers. However, under PI 34 teachers completing instate programs will have learned about the Knowledge, Dispositions, and Performances (formerly called Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions) regarding each of the 10 teacher standards.

Standards for Students

In an introductory statement of the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Social Studies, the authors explain that the standards' organization enables curriculum to be developed in social studies that is either organized as separate disciplines or in an integrated course. In most Wisconsin schools, the strands are integrated as "social studies" at the elementary and middle school level and appear as separate courses in the high schools. Five strands comprise the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Social Studies: geography, history, political science and citizenship, economics, and behavioral sciences.

For each of the five strands, the content standard is presented and then a rationale for that standard is outlined. The content standards for history in Wisconsin are listed using chronology. Performance standards are also included in the document. The content standards address historical eras and themes that should be studied in Wisconsin history in grades 4–12 and in United States history and world history in grades 5–12. The performance standards indicate what students should be able to do at the end of grades 4, 8, and 12. The content standards consist of the following.

- ❖ While studying Wisconsin history, students in grades 4–12 will learn about
 1. the prehistory and the early history of Wisconsin's native people;
 2. early explorers, traders, and settlers to 1812;
 3. the transition from territory to statehood, 1787–1848;
 4. immigration and settlement;
 5. Wisconsin's role in the Civil War, 1860–65;
 6. mining, lumber, and agriculture;
 7. La Follette and the Progressive Era, 1874–1914;
 8. the world wars and conflicts;
 9. prosperity, depression, industrialization, and urbanization; and
 10. Wisconsin's response to 20th-century change.
- ❖ While studying United States history, students in grades 5–12 will learn about
 1. the prehistory and early history of the Americas to 1607;
 2. colonial history and settlement, 1607–1763;
 3. the American Revolution and the early national period, 1763–1815;
 4. the paradox of nationalism and sectionalism in an expanding nation, 1815–60;
 5. the Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861–77;
 6. the growth of industrialization and urbanization, 1865–1914;
 7. World War I and America's emergence as a world power, 1890–1920;
 8. prosperity, depression, and the New Deal, 1920–41;
 9. World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, and the Vietnamese conflict, 1941–75; and

10.the search for prosperity and equal rights in Cold War and post-Cold War America, 1945–present.

- ❖ While studying world history, students in grades 5–12 will learn about
 1. prehistory to 2000 BC;
 2. early pastoral civilizations, non-Western empires, and tropical civilizations;
 3. classical civilizations, including China, India, Egypt, Greece, and Rome, 1000 BC to 500 AD;
 4. multiple religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism) and civilizations to 1100 AD;
 5. expansion and centralization of power, including the decline of feudalism, 1000–1500 AD;
 6. the early modern world, 1450–1800 AD;
 7. global unrest, change, and revolution, 1750–1850 AD;
 8. global encounters, industrialization, urbanization, and imperialism, 1850–1914 AD;
 9. wars, revolutions, and ideologies, 1900–1945 AD; and
 - 10.postindustrialism, global interdependence, and fragmentation in the contemporary world, 1945–present.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM

Students in Wisconsin are required to complete at least three credits in social studies including state and local government in order to graduate from high school.

Exit Exam

Wisconsin is developing a high school graduation test (HSGT). The test has been delayed until at least 2006 due to costs. The test will cover four academic content areas: English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The state has created a document that specifies the eligible and ineligible content for these exams. The content areas in social studies are based on the five strands of the Model Academic Standards in Social Studies.

ASSESSMENT

Wisconsin's Student Assessment System (WSAS) has two components: the Wisconsin Reading Comprehension Test and the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE). The WKCE are aligned with the state standards in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students take the exams in grades 4, 8, and 10. The questions consist of both commercially developed questions administered nationwide and specific questions designed specifically for Wisconsin. They include multiple choice and short answer questions. Beginning September 1, 2002 WKCE scores are being used as one of several criteria for passing students from the 4th to 5th grade and from the 8th to 9th grade. Proficiency categories have been established for these exams.

