



DELAWARE

CERTIFICATION

Delaware is working on teacher accountability, and certification processes are changing. Since 1991, Delaware has issued teachers four types of certificates: Professional Status, Standard, Limited Standard, and Temporary. Standard licenses are issued once candidates have completed requirements in a single area of licensure and have successfully completed the state's testing requirements.

Elementary Certification

A primary license is issued for teachers in grades K–4. The requirements for a standard primary license include a degree requirement and professional education requirements.

Degree Requirement

- ❖ Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college in any field and 45 semester hours of general content courses. These courses may be taken as part of the degree, but if not they must be taken in addition to the degree. Nine semester hours are required in the social sciences, specifically including world history, American history, and geography; or
- ❖ bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college in the field of education.

Professional Education Requirement

The professional education requirements for an early care/primary/middle-level certificate vary. One of these options, early childhood education—birth to age 8—requires 9 semester hours in curriculum and methods in science social studies, and mathematics. A second option requires 60 hours of course work that includes 3 semester hours in social studies curriculum and methods.

Middle-Level Certification

A middle-level license in Delaware is required for all teachers assigned to teach grades 5–8 except those certified with Middle School Content Area Licenses or Secondary Subject Area Licenses. The middle-level license has degree and professional education requirements.

Degree Requirement

- ❖ Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college in any field and 45 hours of general content courses. These courses may be part of the bachelor's degree but if not they must be taken in addition to the degree. Nine semester hours are required in the social sciences, specifically including world history, American history, and geography; or
- ❖ bachelor's degree in a regionally accredited college of education.

Professional Education Requirement

The professional requirements in middle-level education vary and usually require 15 hours of course work related to adolescent development. Candidates who hold a license in education for students, birth through the age of eight, must take nine hours in curriculum and methods in science, social studies, and mathematics. Another option requires sixty hours of course work that must include three hours of curriculum and methods in social studies.

Secondary Certification

Certification in social studies is required for teachers of students in grades 9–12. The certificate is valid for teaching grades 5–8. In order to obtain a standard license in Delaware, a candidate must have

- ❖ earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited college;
- ❖ completed a professional education sequence by either completing an approved teacher education program in the areas of social studies or history or have taken a minimum of 24 semester hours to include human development, methods of teaching secondary social studies, identifying/treating exceptionalities, effective teaching strategies, multicultural education, and student teaching 7–12; and
- ❖ identified a specific teaching field in one of the following options:
 1. major in one of the following areas: history, geography, political science, or economics and a minimum of 9 semester hours in each of the other three content areas;
 2. major in social studies with a concentration of at least 21 semester hours in history, geography, political science, or economics and a minimum of 12 semester hours in each of the other three content areas; and
 3. a total of 57 semester hours to include courses in at least five of the seven areas listed below, with a concentration of 48 semester hours in areas a–d, which includes a minimum of 6 semester hours in each of areas a–d:

- a. history—course work must include at least a one semester course (basic survey) in United States history and a one semester course in world history (basic survey);
- b. geography—course work must include at least a one semester course in world regional geography;
- c. political science—must include a one-semester course in United States government;
- d. economics;
- e. anthropology;
- f. sociology; and
- g. psychology.

STANDARDS

Standards for Teachers

Delaware has not established content standards for teachers. In Delaware’s Professional Teaching Standards the first standard refers to the importance of content knowledge.

Standards for Students

The unifying objective in Delaware’s Social Studies Curriculum Framework is “preparing young people to become informed and active citizens, who accept their responsibilities understand their rights, and participate actively in society and government.” The state of Delaware first engaged in the creation of social studies standards in August 1992, and their work underwent several revisions until the final draft emerged in 1995. The Social Studies Curriculum Framework is build upon four core disciplines and recognizes these areas as the central focus for citizenship education: history, geography, economics, and civics. The introduction to the standards explains the importance of each of these disciplines and relates their study to citizenship education.

The standards are divided into grade clusters: K–3, 4–5, 6–8, and 9–12. Each discipline is presented on a summary page and a rationale explains its inclusion in the standards. Then four standards specific to that discipline are presented with an explanation and progression of expectations organized by grade cluster. In Standard Four (relating to content), general content is outlined under each grade level and organized through periodization. Sample activities are included at the end of the document. The activities are organized by grade cluster, and several activities are suggested for each of the four history standards.

- ❖ Standard One: Students will employ chronological concepts in analyzing historical phenomena [chronology].
- ❖ Standard Two: Students will gather, examine, and analyze historical data [analysis].
- ❖ Standard Three: Students will interpret historical data [interpretation].
- ❖ Standard Four: Students will develop historical knowledge of major events and phenomena in world, United States, and Delaware history [content].

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM

Students in Delaware are required to complete 22 credits in order to graduate from high school. Three credits must be earned in social studies. No other specifications have been located.

Exit Exam

A high school index has been established for reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. In social studies there are four areas: history, geography, civics, and economics. Students receive a raw score in each area and a scale score for all the index areas above combined with social studies. Students' diploma types are based on the index of the cumulative score. Social studies will be indexed for the graduating class of 2006 (they will take the exam in 2005). Once included, social studies will have 20 percent of the weight. The exam will not prevent students from graduating, but it will have an effect on the diploma type they can receive. The score students receive on the state test determines the type of diploma they receive.

ASSESSMENT

In 1998 the Delaware Department of Education, in association with Harcourt Brace Educational Measurement, began the administration of the Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP). DSTP tests are tied to the Delaware Content Standards and are administered annually. The DSTP is administered in reading, writing, and mathematics at grades 3, 5, 8, and 10. Science and social studies tests are administered in grades 4, 6, 8, and 11. The test in grades 4 and 6 is given in October, so it measures the previous cluster. The social studies DSTP assesses students in civics, economics, geography, and history through multiple-choice questions and brief open-ended constructed response questions. The test items are designed to measure how well a student: understands the concept identified in the content standard; applies knowledge and understanding using the skill or process identified in the standard; and connects knowledge to the concept and process in order to explain, support, or justify the response. The questions concentrate on explanation and application since Delaware's standards are based on explanation and application.