



## MISSOURI

### **CERTIFICATION**

According to its Title II report, the state of Missouri certifies teachers at the Type A, B, and C levels. The initial level of licensure is professional certification. In Missouri, the general qualification requirements for certification are identical for all teaching certificates. These requirements include a baccalaureate degree from a college or university having an approved teacher education program; recommendation from the program; a 2.5 GPA; successful completion of the appropriate Praxis tests; and completion of the appropriate general education, professional, and subject area requirements.

#### **Elementary Certification**

To be certified at the elementary level in Missouri, candidates must complete general education courses. In the social sciences these courses must include U.S. history and U.S. government and one additional course in the areas of geography, economics, sociology, anthropology, and psychology. Fifteen hours of teaching methods must be taken and course work in social science including geography and economics must be part of the program of study. Candidates must also have a minimum of 21 hours in a particular area of concentration.

#### **Middle-Level Certification**

General education courses necessary for middle-level certification (grades 5–9) must include U.S. history and U.S. government and one additional course selected from geography, economics, sociology, anthropology, and psychology. Course work in middle school methods appropriate for one's area of specialty and 21 hours in the subject area of specialty are also required.

#### **Secondary Certification**

All secondary teachers must take general education courses, and U.S. history, U.S. government, and one additional course selected from geography, economics, soci-

ology, anthropology, and psychology are required for all teachers. In addition to professional education courses, secondary teachers certified in social science must take a minimum of 40 hours. The course work must be distributed as follows:

- ❖ United States history—12 hours;
- ❖ world history—8 hours;
- ❖ political science (state and U.S. government)—6 hours;
- ❖ economics—3 hours;
- ❖ geography—3 hours;
- ❖ behavioral science (sociology, anthropology, or psychology)—6 hours; and
- ❖ elective social studies—0–2 hours.

Teachers must pass the Praxis II in content area, pass and complete a portfolio that addresses INTASC QIS. The state is in the process of implementing a teacher work sample process that will also be required for certification.

## **STANDARDS**

### **Standards for Teachers**

Missouri has established general standards for all teachers regardless of the subject area they teach. The state also uses social studies competencies that are drawn from recommendations put forth by the National Council for the Social Studies.

### **Standards for Students**

Missouri's Show-Me Standards are grouped around four main performance standards.

- ❖ Goal 1: Students in Missouri public schools will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze, and apply information and ideas.
- ❖ Goal 2: Students in Missouri public schools will acquire the knowledge and skills to communicate effectively within and beyond the classroom.
- ❖ Goal 3: Students in Missouri public schools will acquire the knowledge and skills to recognize and solve problems.
- ❖ Goal 4: Students in Missouri public schools will acquire the knowledge and skills to make decisions and act as responsible members of society.

The specific standards for social studies are designed to enable students to acquire knowledge, which includes

- ❖ principles expressed in the documents shaping constitutional democracy in the United States;
- ❖ continuity and change in the history of Missouri, the United States, and the world;
- ❖ principles and processes of governance systems;
- ❖ economic concepts (including productivity and the market system and principles including the laws of supply and demand);

- ❖ the major elements of geographical study and analysis (such as location, place, movement, regions) and their relationships to changes in society and environment;
- ❖ relationships of the individual and groups to institutions and cultural traditions; and
- ❖ the use of tools of social science inquiry (such as surveys, statistics, maps, and documents).

According to the state of Missouri, the central focus that unites the subjects including United States history, world history, geography, government, economics, sociology, psychology, and anthropology is that they study people and human behavior in social contexts. The Social Studies Framework in Missouri uses five academic discipline perspectives as organizing points. These five perspectives include

- ❖ civic-political perspective;
- ❖ social-cultural perspective;
- ❖ historical perspective;
- ❖ economic perspective; and
- ❖ geographic perspective.

Twenty strands, which are the major themes or organizing questions around which a field of studies may be conceptualized, can be found in the framework. Strands consist of a fundamental question accompanied by an academic discipline perspective. Four Fundamental Questions guide the strands.

- ❖ Why have people established governance systems?
- ❖ How do individuals relate to and interact with groups?
- ❖ How do events and developments in this and other places relate to us and to each other?
- ❖ How do the lives of individuals and conditions in society affect each other?

Guiding questions exist for each strand for students in grade ranges K–4, 5–8, and 9–12. According to the state, these strands are not really a specification of the standards or of what they mean in an operational sense for statewide assessment. They are, however, a creative way for districts to build the standards into their local curricula or for teachers to build the standards into their courses and units.

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

The state of Missouri requires that its students earn a minimum of 22 units of credit if they wish to graduate from high school. A minimum of 2 units in social studies is required. One of these two credits must be in American history, and one-half of the units must be in government. It is noted that all schools must provide regular instruction in the Missouri and the U.S. Constitutions. The history of the state of Missouri and American history and institutions must be studied beginning not later than seventh grade and continuing through high school. Students wishing to be awarded the College Preparatory Studies Certificate must enroll in a rigorous academic program in which 3 units of social studies are required. These courses must include American history and at least one semester of government.

## Exit Exam

Subject matter tests on U.S. history and U.S. and Missouri government and institutions are locally designated tests to be given at any time a local district designates during grades 7–12.

## ASSESSMENT

The Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests students in math, science, communication arts, social studies, and health/physical education. Students in grades 4, 8, and 11 take the exam in social studies. Multiple-choice, short-answer, constructed-response questions and performance events are included on the test. Missouri has identified descriptors for student achievement for each grade level. The categories are Progressing, Near Proficiency, Proficient, and Advanced. The state has prepared a handout, *Content Specifications for Statewide Assessment by Standard*, to further specify content related to the standards at the benchmark levels of grades 4, 8, and 11. Due to a tight budget, only the tests in mathematics and communication arts are currently being funded by the state. At the same time, many local districts do purchase the service of having their students take the Social Studies MAP Test and having the test scored. Student performance on the MAP tests does not affect the student in any way—it affects only the schools.