

Certification Information

Department of Middle Grades and Secondary Education

Political Science

Introduction

Thanks for your interest in Valdosta State University for obtaining a teaching certificate. Admission requirements into a certification program are a bachelor's degree, an overall GPA of 2.5, and have passed or exempted the Praxis I tests. Exemptions for the Praxis I test are achieved by high scores on the SAT (1000), ACT (43) or GRE (1030).

At the completion of this program you will be eligible to teach social studies at the 7 – 12 grades levels. There are several courses in this program that are only offered during the day due to field experiences in the public schools. Many classes are offered at night BUT not all of them so this program cannot be completed just through evening classes.

Certification Evaluation: A review of all previous course work will be compared with the required courses as listed on the attached pages to determine an individualized certification plan leading to your secondary social studies certificate. Professional development, relevant work experiences, similar courses, or other activities may be used to satisfy some of the required courses. You are expected to provide all college transcripts and any other documentation needed to verify which course expectations have been met and which courses will be included in your plan. There is a \$35 fee for this plan, which will represent a contract that lists all requirements needed for you to obtain the secondary social studies certificate. You should indicate whether you wish to pursue a history or political science program of study. The plan is good for three years.

The writer of your certification plan will also serve as your advisor throughout completion of your program. After you receive the plan, you should review the courses to ensure that you have not completed similar courses or professional development activities. After your plan is finalized then you and your advisor can develop a tentative long-range schedule for completing the required courses.

Certification Test Requirements: The secondary social studies certificate requires successful completion of the two Praxis II tests as listed below:

Test	Test Code
Social Studies Content	10081
Social Studies Interpretation of Materials	20083

These two tests should be taken as you complete the social studies content courses listed in your certification plan. Both tests must be passed to complete the requirements for a teaching certificate. Registration materials and information about these two tests are available in the Dean's Office or at the Georgia Professional Standards Commission's web site: www.gapsc.com

Questions?? Your advisor will be Dr. Charles J. Walsh at 333-5645 or cjwalsh@valdosta.edu

Secondary Social Studies Certification Course Requirements, Political Science

Name _____ Date _____

Pol. Sci. Courses (hrs)	Schedule	Notes	Grades
<u>US CONSTITUTIONAL THEORY AND DEVELOPMENT</u> Select One POLS: 3 4210 Sep. of Powers in the Am. Pol. System 3530 Am. Political Thought 3520 Modern Pol. Ideologies	Courses are offered on a rotating schedule each semester		_____ _____
<u>US GOVT.: POLITICS</u> Select One POLS: 3 3220 Pol. Parties, Interest Groups, and the Media 3230 Am. Pol. Parties and Elections 3270 Pub. Opinion and Pol. Socialization	Courses are offered on a rotating schedule each semester		_____ _____
<u>LANDMARK COURT DECISIONS</u> Select Two POLS: 6 3250 Introduction to Law 3260 Jurisprudence: Law and Legal Thought 4200 American Constitutional Law I 4202 American Constitutional Law II 4260 American Constitutional Law III	Courses are offered on a rotating schedule each semester		_____ _____ _____ _____
<u>U.S. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS</u> Select Three POLS: 9 3210 The American Legislative Process 3240 American Judicial Process and Behavior 3290 The American Presidency 4210 Intergovernmental Relations 4240 Politics and the Supreme Court 3200 American State and Local Govts and Politics	Courses are offered on a rotating schedule each semester		_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
<u>COMPARATIVE POLITICS</u> Select Two POLS: 6 3300 Comparative Politics 3400 International Politics 4300 European Politics 4310 Politics in Russia 4360 Politics of Post-Communism 4370 Comparative Constitutional Law and Judicial Politics 4410 American Foreign Policy 4420 Global Security Policy 4400 International Organization and Law	Courses are offered on a rotating schedule each semester		_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Tutoring in Political Science POLS 4700	Each semester (with approval)		
Elective 3000+ Level 6 Select Two: GEOG, POLS, ANTH, SOCI, ECON, HIST	Each semester		_____
READ 4550 3 Reading in Content	Each semester Day/night		

36 hours total

Test Requirements

Praxis I test completed - _____

Praxis II test completed - _____

Education Classes	Schedule	Prerequisites	Notes	Grades
MSED 2000 3 Survey of Ed.	Each term Day/night			
SPEC 2000 3 Serving Diverse Students	Each term Day/night			
ACED 2400 3 Comp. Technol.	Each term Day/night			
PSYC 3110 3 Ed. Psychology	Each term Day/night			
SEED 3000 3 Issues & Trends in Secondary Ed.	Fall, spring Day/night			
SEED 3010 1 InTech for Sec Ed	Fall, spring			
SEED 4400 3 Methods for Teaching Secondary Social Studies	Fall term night	Co-requisite is SEED 4620		
SEED 4620 1 Practicum - 4400	Fall term		Not needed if 4200 taken in internship	
SEED 4790 10 student teaching with SEED 4780, seminar OR MSED 4780 (12) Internship	Fall and spring	The internship requires a teaching position in social studies.	Provisional teaching certificate required for 4780 – two semesters required	

32 hours total but the 12 hours of internship can be done on the job

Steps in the Certification Program

1. Review information in certification packet
2. Resolve questions or concerns regarding certification issues
3. Pay \$35 fee to get certification plan
4. After plan is completed, review with advisor and develop long schedule
5. Apply to VSU as second degree undergraduate student
6. Complete coursework as required in plan
7. Complete Praxis II tests after completion of social studies courses
8. Seek employment and provisional certification
9. Complete student teaching or internship (requires a teaching job in social studies)
10. Complete certification application for professional certificate in secondary social studies