

Certification Information

Department of Middle Grades and Secondary Education

Earth & Space Science

Introduction

Thank you 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 earth & space science 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 earth & space science 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 earth & space science certificate. 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 earth & space science certificate requires successful completion of the two Praxis II tests as listed below

Test Code	Test
10435	General Science: Content Knowledge
30433	General Science: Content Essays

These two tests should be taken as you complete the earth & space science content courses listed in your certification plan. Both tests must be passed to complete the requirements for a teaching certificate in earth & space science. 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? For more information, contact Dr. Ellice Martin at 229-333-5611 or email epmartin@valdosta.edu.

Secondary Earth & Space Science Certification Course Requirements

Name _____ Date _____

Courses (semester hrs)	Schedule	Prerequisites	Notes	Grade
PHYS 2211K (4) Principles of Physics I		Co- or prerequisite MATH 2261		
PHYS 2212K (4) Principles of Physics II		Co- or prerequisite MATH 2262		
GEOG 1112K (4) Introduction to Weather and Climate		Co- or prerequisite MATH 1101 or higher		
GEOG 1113K (4) Introduction to Land Forms or GEOL 1121K (4) Principles of Physical Geology		Co- or prerequisite MATH 1101 or higher		
GEOG 2010 (1) Tools of Environmental Geography				
GEOL 1122K (4) Principles of Historical Geology		Co- or prerequisite MATH 1101 or higher		
ASTR 3101 (4) Principles of Astronomy I		PHYS 2211K		
ASTR 3102 (4) Principles of Astronomy II		ASTR 3101 and PHYS 2211K		
GEOG/GEOL/ASTR electives 3000-4000 level (13)				

42 hours total

Note: Courses in other areas that incorporate earth & space science applications may be considered for selected requirements.

Test Requirements

Praxis I test completed - _____

Praxis II test completed - _____

Courses (semester hrs)	Schedule	Prerequisites	Notes	Grade
MSED 2000 (3) Survey of Educational Concepts	Each term Day/night			
SPEC 2000 (3) Serving Students with Diverse Needs	Each term Day/night		20 hours field experience	
ACED 2400 (3) Computer Technology for the Workplace	Each term Day/night			
PSYC 3110 (3) Educational Psychology	Each term Day/night	MSED 2000 or HSPE 2100, PSYC 2700	20 hours field experience	
SEED 3000 (3) Issues and Trends in Secondary Education	Fall, spring Day/night		40 hours field experience	
SEED 3010 (1) Integrating Technology in Secondary Education	Fall, spring	ACED 2400		
READ 4550 (3) Reading in the Content Areas	Each term Day/evening			
SEED 4300 (3) Curriculum and Methods for Teaching Secondary Science	Fall term evening	SEED 3010 and 3000, co-requisite of SEED 4620		
SEED 4620 (1) Classroom Practicum	Fall term	Co-requisite of SEED 4300	Not required if SEED 4300 taken in internship. 40 hours field experience	
SEED 4790 (10) Student Teaching and SEED 4800 (2) Professional Practices Seminar Or MSED 4780 (12) Internship	Fall and spring	The internship requires a teaching position in science.	Provisional teaching certificate required for SEED 4780	

35 semester hours total but the 12 hours of internship can be done on the job.
Courses with field experiences are identified in the Notes column.

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 “seeking initial teacher certification” undergraduate student
6. Complete coursework as required in plan
7. Complete Praxis II tests after completion of science courses
8. Seek employment and provisional certification
9. Complete student teaching or internship (requires a teaching job in science)
10. Complete certification application for professional certificate in secondary earth & space science