

## Handout for History Majors who may become Teachers

### UPPER-LEVEL HISTORY COURSES     30 HOURS

For a Teaching career, the following are STRONGLY RECOMMENDED as PART of the EIGHT Upper-level History Content Courses:

HIST 4211, 4212 or 4100

HIST 4231, 4261 or 4241

HIST 4204, 4205 or 4206

### MINOR AND/OR ELECTIVES             27-30 HOURS

For a Teaching career, it is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED that Majors take courses in Economics, Geography, Political Science, Anthropology, or Sociology; also consider either EDUC 2110, 2120, or 2130

### INFORMATION REGARDING EDUCATIONAL CERTIFICATION

#### **Graduate w/ Overall GPA of 2.5**

Might take **SPEC 3100** as an undergraduate b/c this course is required for eventual certification in GA.

Pass **GACE I** exam, or exempt w/ 1000 on SAT (no minimum on Verbal or Math) or combined score of 43 on ACT. If you need to take the GACE I, consider taking exam in your Freshman Year since it has math. Note: a 1030 total for the verbal & quantitative sections of the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) will also exempt the GACE I.

Pass **GACE II** exams in Content Areas (US History and World History) during Senior Year (see below).

See VSU's Career Center in Powell Hall for Education Career Day.

During senior year, apply for teaching jobs (<http://www.teachgeorgia.org/>) and once successful, work w/ your principal on the best way to attain certification. For example, one option is the ACT program offered by VSU's College of Education (see below).

If you do not get a teaching job, contact VSU's College of Education regarding the new program in which a student goes fulltime to earn certification & a master's degree in Education.

Note: the body that actually does the certification process in GA is the Georgia Professional Standards Commission <http://www.gapsc.com/>

#### GACE Tests

For information on sign up & study guides, go to <http://www.gace.nesinc.com/>

#### Georgia Performance Standards

For the current History curriculum (both US History & World History) in GA, see <http://www.georgiastandards.org/socialstudies.aspx>

Note: the GPS's in US History & World History can also be used as study guides for the GACE II tests in US History & World History b/c the GACE II tests are supposed to be aligned to the new curriculum.

## How You Can Prepare to Enter Valdosta State's ACT (Alternative Certification for Teaching) Program

1. Observe public school classrooms while you are an undergraduate by working as a substitute teacher or serving as a volunteer.
2. EDUC 2110, EDUC 2120, & EDUC 2130 are Area F courses for education majors and require field experience. These courses are not required for entering the ACT program, but enrolling might help you make your career decision.

What you need to get started:

- A Bachelor's Degree in History
- 2.5 GPA
- Pass GACE I (or exempt w/ 1000+ on SAT or 43+ on ACT) and GACE II in your teaching content area. <http://www.gace.nesinc.com/>
- Apply for a teaching job: [teachgeorgia.org](http://www.teachgeorgia.org/home.aspx) is the statewide application process <http://www.teachgeorgia.org/home.aspx>
- When you are hired, the school system will ask the Professional Standards Commission for a non-renewable certificate (NT-4) for you (good for 5 years).

To Change the NT-4 certificate to a Clear Renewable Certificate (T-4)

- Complete a transcript evaluation form and submit to Dr. Donnie McGahee, Director of Certification, Dewar College of Education, Dean's Office. <http://education.valdosta.edu/programs/cert.htm>
- Upon receiving the transcript evaluation, meet with an advisor in the College of Education to determine a timeline for entering the ACT program
- Apply to VSU's Graduate School (see <http://www.valdosta.edu/gradschool/> for on-line application) and take the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) or the MAT (Miller's Analogy Test). Application process must be completed by March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Upon acceptance to graduate school, you will then attend a group interview and a on-site writing exercise as the final screening for acceptance to a ACT cohort.
- An ACT cohort begins each June.
- There are TWO tracks leading to certification:
  - (1) For working teachers: ACT (18 hrs) for clear renewable T-4 certificate
    - 2 classes in summer term
    - 2 classes in fall term (including second teaching internship)
    - 2 classes in spring term (including second teaching internship)An additional 18 hours will complete a master's degree in Education (M.Ed) & T-5 certification (a T-5 = certificate for teacher w/ a master's degree).

- (2) For full time students: 14 month MAT degree & T-5 certificate (four term sequence of summer term, fall term, spring term, summer term).

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