

Certification Information

Department of Middle Grades and Secondary Education

Biology

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 GACE Basic Skills. Exemptions for the GACE Basic Skills 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 biology 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 biology 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 biology 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 biology certificate requires successful completion of GACE Content Assessment as listed below

Test Code	Test
20235	Biology: Content Knowledge
30233	Biology: Content Essays

These two tests should be taken as you complete the biology content courses listed in your certification plan. Both tests must be passed to complete the certification requirements for a teaching certificate in secondary biology. 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 Biology Certification Course Requirements

Name _____ Date _____

Courses (semester hrs)	Schedule	Prerequisites	Notes	Grade
CHEM 1211K (4) Principles of Chemistry I		MATH 1111 or 1113		
CHEM 1212K (4) Principles of Chemistry II		MATH 1111 or 1113 and CHEM 1211K		
BIOL 2010 (4) Introductory Biology for Majors				
BIOL 2230 (4) General Botany		BIOL 1010/1020L and 1030/1040L or BIOL 2010		
BIOL 2270 (4) General Zoology		BIOL 1010/1020L and 1030/1040L or BIOL 2010		
BIOL 3100 (4) Microbiology		BIOL 2010 and CHEM 1212K		
BIOL 3200 (4) Genetics		MATH 1113, BIOL 2230 and 2270		
BIOL 3300 (4) Ecology		BIOL 2230 and 2270, and CHEM 1212K		
BIOL 3400 (4) Plant Physiology or BIOL 3450 (4) Vertebrate Physiology		BIOL 2230 and CHEM 1211K; BIOL 2270 and CHEM 1212K		
BIOL 4830 (1) Laboratory Practicum I		12 hours upper division biology		
BIOL electives 3000-4000 level (5)				

42 hours total

Note: Courses in other areas that incorporate biology applications may be considered for selected requirements.

Test Requirements

GACE Basic Skills completed - _____

GACE Content Assessment 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 PSYC 2500	20 hours field experience	
SEED 3000 (3) Issues and Trends in Secondary Education	Each term Day/night	MSED 2000 Admission to Teacher Ed	40 hours field experience	
SEED 4010 (1) Integrating Technology in Secondary Education	Each Term Night	ACED 2400 Admission to Teacher Ed		
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 3000		
SEED 4620 (1) Classroom Practicum	Fall term	SEED 3000	80 hours field experience	
SEED 4790 (10) Student Teaching and SEED 4800 (2) Professional Practices Seminar Or MSED4780 (12) Internship (2 semesters)	Fall and spring	The internship requires a teaching position in science.	Provisional teaching certificate required for MSED4780	

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 GACE Content Assessment 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 biology