

Certification Information

Department of Middle Grades and Secondary Education

Physics

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 GACE Basic Skills 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 physics 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 physics 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 physics 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 physics certificate requires successful completion of the GACE Content Assessments as listed below

| Test Code | Test |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 20481 | Physical Science: Content Knowledge |
| 10261 | Physics: Content Knowledge |
| 30262, | Physics: Content Essays |

These three tests should be taken as you complete the physics content courses listed in your certification plan. All tests must be passed to complete the requirements for a teaching certificate in physics. Registration materials and information about these three tests are available in the Dean's Office or 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 Physics 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 | | |
| MATH 2262 (4) Analytic Geometry and Calculus I | | MATH 2261 | | |
| MATH 2263 (4) Analytic Geometry and Calculus II | | MATH 2262 | | |
| PHYS 2010 (1) Tools of Physics | | | | |
| PHYS 3810 (3) Mathematical Methods of Physics | | PHYS 2212K and MATH 2263 | | |
| PHYS 4111 (3) Theoretical Mechanics I | | PHYS 2211K and MATH 2263 | | |
| PHYS 4112 (3) Theoretical Mechanics II | | PHYS 2211K and MATH 2263 | | |
| PHYS 4211 (3) Electromagnetism I | | PHYS 2212K and MATH 2263 | | |
| PHYS 4411 (3) Modern Physics I | | PHYS 4111 | | |
| PHYS electives 3000-4000 level (10) | | | | |

42 hours total

Note: Courses in other areas that incorporate physics 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 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 – two semesters | |

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 physics