

Teaching certificates in South Dakota are issued by the South Dakota Department of Education. The elementary certificate qualifies the holder to teach subjects in grades K-8. The K-12 or secondary certificate qualifies the holder to teach subjects in grades K-12 or 7-12 respectively. A middle level certification and applicable middle school content certification are required to teach in formally organized middle schools or junior highs in South Dakota. All teacher education programs at Dakota State University include a middle level certification that is embedded into required education coursework while middle school content certification will continue to require completion of specific content courses, and successful completion of Praxis content exam in area of certification.

Students who successfully complete teacher education programs at Dakota State University are eligible to receive a recommendation for the applicable teaching certification in the State of South Dakota. All education graduates are encouraged to apply for South Dakota certification immediately upon completion of their degree.

Teacher education graduates may also be eligible for Dakota State University recommendation for certification in other states, but because teaching certification/licensure requirements vary among states, Dakota State University cannot guarantee the graduate will be immediately certified in a particular state. If you are seeking certification or licensure, you will want to contact the appropriate governing body in your state. The [U.S. Department of Education](http://www2.ed.gov/about/contacts/state/index.html) hyperlink will help you learn more about certification in your state: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/contacts/state/index.html>.

Please contact the College of Education Office regarding licensure certification outside of South Dakota at 605-256-5177.