

SECONDARY EDUCATION SOCIAL STUDIES, B.SOSC.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Harrisburg

Program Description

The Secondary Education Social Studies major prepares students to meet the requirements as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, to be certified for the Social Studies Instructional I Certificate. The major prepares students to teach history, government, economics, geography, psychology, sociology, and anthropology.

Students are challenged to prepare for teaching assignments at the middle and high school level, and in diverse settings characterized as rural, urban, and suburban. The art and science of teaching social studies in secondary schools is undergoing significant transformation as new technologies, new issues and considerations, and new instructional strategies are all having an impact on the delivery of social studies instruction.

Students admitted to the program must submit and renew annually the appropriate clearances. These include FBI fingerprint check, Act 151 child abuse history clearance, and Act 34 criminal record check. Additionally, documentation a clear tuberculosis (TB) test must be submitted no more than 90 days prior to any clinical field placement.

Students thinking seriously about entering the education program should plan their freshman and sophomore years carefully, following the Suggested Academic Plan as closely as possible. Semesters 5 through 8 are very structured.

What is Secondary Education Social Studies?

Secondary Education Social Studies prepares individuals to teach students in the secondary grades, which may include grades seven through twelve, depending on the school system or state regulations, in the areas of history, government, economics, geography, psychology, sociology, and anthropology.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You enjoy history, economics, geography, sociology, and government; You like critical, creative, and reflective thinking;
- You enjoy helping others learn;
- You want to have an important and direct impact on the lives of others;
- You want a career in teaching or school administration;
- You want to help transform the world, one student at a time.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SECONDARY EDUCATION SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAM (<https://harrisburg.psu.edu/behavioral-sciences-education/teacher-education/secondary-education-social-studies-bsosc/>)

Entrance to Major

Entry to Secondary Education Social Studies requires the following:

1. A minimum grade point average of 3.0;
2. Completion of ENGL 15 or ENGL 30H and three credits of literature from approved list with a C or higher grade;
3. Three credits of literature from a department-approved list with a C or higher grade;
4. Completion of six credits of college-level mathematics (MATH or STAT prefixes) with a C or higher grade;
5. Satisfaction of any entrance testing requirements set out by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in effect at the time of application for the major;
6. Submission to the Teacher Education Office of current and clear background checks as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education;
7. Submission of documentation of 20 pre-major fieldwork hours.

Retention Requirements

Following entrance to the major, students will be evaluated for retention in the program based on:

1. maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher;
2. completion of required courses with a C or higher grade;
3. an acceptable or above rating on the Professional Dispositions for Teacher Education;¹
4. current and clear background checks as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

To be eligible to student teach, students must:

1. maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher;
2. complete all required Content and Education Courses with a C or higher grade;
3. satisfaction of any entrance testing requirements set out by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in effect at the time of application for entrance to major;
4. be rated acceptable or above on the Professional Dispositions for Teacher Education;¹
5. have current and clear background checks as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

In order to successfully complete the Secondary Education Social Studies Program, students must:

1. complete EDUC 490 with a grade of C or higher;
2. maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher for degree completion;
3. maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher for Pennsylvania teacher certification;
4. Complete all required Content and Education Courses with a C or higher grade;
5. complete a program portfolio; and
6. For Pennsylvania teacher certification, be rated acceptable or above for all criteria on the Final Professional Dispositions Review for Teacher Education.

¹ For more detailed information see the Secondary Education Handbook.

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Social Science degree in Secondary Education Social Studies, a minimum of 122 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	3
Requirements for the Major	95

21 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 6 credits of GH courses; 6 credits of GQ courses; 3 credits of GN courses; 6 credits of GS courses.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
BISC 3	Environmental Science	3
EDPSY 14	Learning and Instruction	3
EDUC 313	Secondary Education Field Experience	2
EDUC 314	Learning Theory and Instructional Procedures	3
EDUC 315Y	Social and Cultural Factors in Education	3
EDUC 385	Professional Development in Teaching	3
EDUC 400	Diversity and Cultural Awareness Practices in the K-12 Classroom	3
EDUC 415	Teaching Secondary Social Studies	3
EDUC 458	Behavior Management Strategies for Inclusive Classrooms	3
EDUC 459	Strategies for Effective Teaching in Inclusive Classrooms	3
EDUC 466N	Foundations of Teaching English as a Second Language	3
EDUC 490	Student Teaching	9
GEOG 40	World Regional Geography	3
GEOG 128	Geography of International Affairs	3
HDFS 239	Adolescent Development	3
HIST 20	American Civilization to 1877	3
HIST 21	American Civilization Since 1877	3
HIST 320	Contemporary World History and Issues	3
PLSC 1	American Politics: Principles, Processes and Powers	3
PSYCH 100	Introductory Psychology	3
SOC 1	Introductory Sociology	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
ECON 104 or ECON 14	Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy Principles of Economics	3
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
HIST 1	Western Civilization I	

HIST 2	Western Civilization II	
HIST 10	World History to 1500	
HIST 11	World History since 1500	
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
MATH 21	College Algebra with Analytic Geometry with Applications I	
MATH 22	College Algebra With Analytic Geometry and Applications II	
MATH 26	Plane Trigonometry and Applications of Trigonometry	
MATH 30	Problem Solving	
MATH 35	General View of Mathematics	
MATH 36	Insights Into Mathematics	
MATH 37	Finite Mathematics	
MATH 38	Elementary Linear Algebra	
MATH 40	Algebra, Trigonometry, and Analytic Geometry	
MATH 200	Problem Solving in Mathematics or MATH 22(Matrices)	
STAT 100	Statistical Concepts and Reasoning	
STAT 200	Elementary Statistics	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas ¹

<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>	
Select 3 credits of literature courses from approved department list	3
Select 3 credits of African African-American studies, American studies, history or minority studies from approved department list	3
Select 3 credits of anthropology from approved department list	3
Select 3 credits of political science	3
Select 3 credits of sociology (must be a 400-level course)	3

¹ 6 of these 15 credits must be at the 400-level, 3 of which must be in sociology. In addition, 3 of these must be US Cultures.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- Arts (GA): 3 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 3 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 3 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain): 6 credits

Exploration

- GN, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses. This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student’s degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

Harrisburg

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Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2023-24 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (*Note: the archive only contains suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin*).

Secondary Education Social Studies, B.SOSC. at Harrisburg Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year	Credits	Spring	Credits
Fall ENGL 15, 15S, 30T, or ESL 15 (GWS) ^{†#1}	3	General Education Course (GWS) – CAS 100A or 100S recommended [‡]	3
MATH 200 (or other department approved mathematics course (GQ)) ^{†#2}	3	MATH 201 (or other department approved mathematics course (GQ)) ^{†#2}	3
SOC 1 (GS) [*]	3	BISC 3 (GN) ^{†*}	3
HIST 1, 2, 10, or 11 (GH;IL) [*]	3	PSYCH 100 (GS) ^{†*}	3

General Education Course (GA) - Inter-Domain (N) recommended	3 HIST 20 (GH;US) ^{**†}	3
15		15
Second Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Select department approved literature course [#]	3 ENGL 202A (GWS) ¹	3
EDPSY 14 [*]	3 HDFS 239 (GS) ^{**†}	3
HIST 21 (GH) ^{**†}	3 ECON 14 or 104 [*]	3
GEOG 30N (or other General Education course (GN) – Inter-Domain (N) recommended)	3 PLSC 1 [*]	3
General Education Course (GA)	3 GEOG 40 [*]	3
General Education Course (GHW)	1.5 General Education Course (GHW)	1.5
16.5		16.5
Third Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
EDUC 313 [*]	2 EDUC 315Y [*]	3
EDUC 314 [*]	3 EDUC 458 [*]	3
GEOG 128 [*]	3 EDUC 466N [*]	3
HIST 320 [*]	3 Select 3 credits of 400-level SOC ^{*4}	3
Select 3 credits of ANTH – ANTH 45N recommended [*]	3 Select 3 credits of AFAM, AMST, HIST, WMNST, or minority studies from approved department list (US) ^{*3,4}	3
Select 3 credits of PLSC ^{*3}	3 Select GA, GS, or GH Elective ⁵	3
17		18
Fourth Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
EDUC 400 [*]	3 EDUC 490 [*]	12
EDUC 415 [*]	3	
EDUC 459 [*]	3	
EDUC 495 (clinical residency/internship) or Elective ^{*5}	3	
12		12
Total Credits 122		

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

¹ ENGL 15S or ENGL 30T and ENGL 202A (with a grade of B or higher) together satisfy the reading and writing testing entrance to major requirement.

² MATH 200 and MATH 201 (with a grade of B or higher) together satisfy the mathematics testing entrance to major requirement.

³ At least 3 credits from selected PLSC and AFAM, AMST, HIST, WMNST, or minority studies courses must be at the 400 level.

⁴ At least 3 credits from AFAM, AMST, HIST, WMNST, or minority studies or SOC 400 level courses must be in US Cultures.

⁵ Electives can be taken in any subject area, but courses in education (including those taken toward an add-on certification) or courses relevant to social studies education are encouraged.

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Career Paths

The Secondary Education Social Studies major will prepare students to teach social studies in secondary schools grades 7 to 12. As secondary school teachers, they will delve more deeply into subject matter introduced broadly during the elementary years. Additionally, Secondary Education Social Studies students should graduate with instructional, organizational, administrative, and communications abilities and an excellent background in the social studies. Other career areas requiring these skills include: public relations, sales, social work, employee training and development, social service, and employment counseling.

Careers

The Secondary Education Social Studies major prepares students to meet the requirements to be certified for the Social Studies Instructional I Certificate as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE SECONDARY EDUCATION SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAM (<https://harrisburg.psu.edu/behavioral-sciences-education/teacher-education/secondary-education-social-studies-bsosc/careers-teaching/>)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Graduate programs for a Master of Education degree are available in Teaching and Curriculum and Literacy Education. Additional certification and endorsement programs in English as a Second Language (ESL), Special Education, and others are also available.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<https://harrisburg.psu.edu/behavioral-sciences-education/teacher-education/>)

Professional Resources

- National Council for the Social Studies (<https://www.socialstudies.org>)

Accreditation

This program is nationally recognized by the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and endorsed the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES (<https://www.socialstudies.org/standards/national-standards-preparation-social-studies-teachers/>)

Professional Licensure/Certification

Many U.S. states and territories require professional licensure/certification to be employed. If you plan to pursue employment in a licensed profession after completing this program, please visit the Professional Licensure/Certification Disclosures by State (<https://www.psu.edu/state-licensure-disclosures/>) interactive map.

Contact

Harrisburg

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