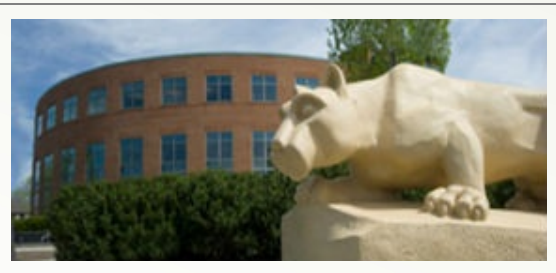


Certification Program in Secondary Education: Social Studies

The certification program in Secondary Education Social Studies is designed for an individual who holds a baccalaureate degree and wants to become certified to teach Social Studies (history, geography, government, psychology, sociology, anthropology and/or economics) in Pennsylvania secondary schools (grades 7-12). If you are an undergraduate (Bachelor's Degree) student who is interested in becoming a Social Studies teacher, you can do so by enrolling in the [Bachelor of Social Science in Secondary Education Social Studies](#). Students who successfully complete the requirements will be recommended for the Secondary Social Studies: Instructional I teaching certificate. Course work is required in both behavioral sciences and education.



Contact

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PennState
Harrisburg

**School of Behavioral
Sciences and Education**



**Certification Program in
Secondary Education:
Social Studies**

Curriculum

Program Requirements

The Social Studies certification program requires students to take courses in various areas of the social and behavioral sciences, history, and education. All courses required for certification, including an intensive field experience, must be completed with a grade of C or better prior to student teaching. The program requirements are listed on the [Courses page](#). Students can send their undergraduate transcripts to the Certification Officer, Joel Geary, at jdg24@psu.edu in order for the program adviser to determine which courses may have already been completed that would satisfy the requirements

Program Notes

A minimum grade of C is required in all courses for certification; however, a 3.0 grade-point average is required to be eligible for student teaching.

Courses Overview

Education Course Requirements (32 Credits Required)

- C I 280 (GH) INTRODUCTION TO TEACHING ENGLISH TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (3).
- EDUC 313 FIELD OBSERVATION/PARTICIPATION (2)
- EDUC 314 LEARNING THEORY AND INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES (3). (EDUC 313 and 314 must be taken concurrently.)
- EDUC 315W SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FACTORS IN EDUCATION (3). (Certification students must enroll in the section reserved for prospective secondary teachers.)
- EDUC 415 TEACHING SECONDARY SOCIAL STUDIES (3). (Offered during fall term only)
- EDUC 458 BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS (3). Prerequisite: admission to Teacher Education program.
- EDUC 459 STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING IN INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS (3). Prerequisite: admission to Teacher Certification program or Approval of program.
- EDUC 490 STUDENT TEACHING (12). (EDUC 490 and EDUC 435 must be taken concurrently.)

Social Studies Course Requirements

Prescribed Courses (18 Credits)

- ECON 002 INTRODUCTORY MICROECONOMIC ANALYSIS (3) or ECON 004 INTRODUCTORY MACROECONOMICS ANALYSIS (3)
- HIST 001 THE WESTERN HERITAGE I (3)
- HIST 020 AMERICAN CIVILIZATION TO 1877 (3)
- HIST 021 AMERICAN CIVILIZATION SINCE 1877 (3)
- PSY 002 Psychology (3)
- SOC 001 INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY (3)

Breadth Courses-30 Credits Required

History (3 credits)

- HIS 320 CONTEMPORARY WORLD HISTORY AND ISSUES (3)

Geography (6 credits)

- GEOG 040 WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY (3)
- GEOG 128 GEOGRAPHY OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (3)

Government (3 credits)

- PL SC 001 INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT (3)

Supporting Courses - 15 Credits Required

- 3 credits of Sociology
- 3 credits of American Studies (from approved department list) or African and African American Studies or History or Minority Studies
- 3 credits of Anthropology (from approved department list)
- 3 credits of Psychology (from approved department list)
- 3 credits of Political Sciences

For a list of courses, [visit the University Bulletin](#).

Program Requirements for Admission

An applicant must present a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher in the last 60 credits (approximately).

How to Enroll

Enrollment in this program requires admission to Penn State's Graduate School and to the program in Teaching and Curriculum in the College of Education.

To enroll, complete the online application within the [Graduate School Admissions Portal](#).

- Follow the onscreen instructions to log in.
- Select the appropriate semester of enrollment.
- For *Enrollment Type*, select "Degree Admission." (Certification or Endorsement programs do not award a degree; however, applicants must select "Degree Admission" from the dropdown menu.)
- Answer the question about prior coursework at Penn State and then follow the prompts provided.
- For *Campus*, Choose "Harrisburg" and then select "Teaching and Curriculum" from the *Major* list.
- Select "Pennsylvania Educators Level I Certification" from the *Degree* list. (Applicants who hold PDE Instructional I or II certification already will have their status corrected by PDE.)
- For *Option*, select the appropriate option.
- Choose a semester.

If you experience difficulty using our online application, please contact:

Janet Althouse ja25@psu.edu 717-948-6213

Application Process

Applicants are required to submit the following:

- a completed online application;
- transcripts from all colleges/universities attended;
- [completed clearance forms](#);
- an application fee.

Test Requirements: Post-baccalaureate applicants do not need to take the Basic Skills tests that are required by Bachelor's degree students; however, all Social Studies certification students must take the Praxis test #5081 prior to earning Pennsylvania certification. [Review this page to see what tests you need to take.](#)

Other Questions

If you have additional questions, please contact Graduate Admissions, 717-948-6250, or the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, 717-948-6213.