

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 in secondary schools is undergoing significant transformation as new technologies, time allocation for instruction, and new instructional strategies are impacting the delivery of social studies instruction.

Students admitted to the program must have the appropriate clearances. These include FBI fingerprint check, Act 151 child abuse history clearance, and Act 34 criminal record check.

Students thinking seriously about entering the education program should plan their freshman and sophomore years carefully. 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.

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 30 and three credits of literature from approved list with a C or higher grade.
3. Completion of six credits of college-level mathematics (MATH or STAT prefixes) with a C or higher grade.
4. Satisfaction of any entrance testing requirements set out by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in effect at the time of application for the major

Selective Retention

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 Penn State Harrisburg Professional Dispositions for Teacher Education.¹

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 Penn State Harrisburg Professional Dispositions for Teacher Education.¹

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 3.0 or higher;
3. complete all required Content and Education Courses with a C or higher grade;
4. complete a presentation portfolio; and
5. be rated acceptable or above on the Penn State Harrisburg Professional Dispositions for Teacher Education.¹

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, 3 credits of GN courses, 6 credits of GS courses, 6 credits of GQ courses.

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 (<http://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.)

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

Knowledge Domains

- **Arts (GA):** 6 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 6 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 6 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)

- **Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses:** 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 (<http://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.

Requirements for the Major

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<http://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
CI 280	Introduction to Teaching English Language Learners	3
EDPSY 14	Learning and Instruction	3
EDUC 313	Field Observation	2
EDUC 314	Learning Theory and Instructional Procedures	3
EDUC 315	Social and Cultural Factors in Education	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 490	Student Teaching	12
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		
ECON 104	Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy	3
or ECON 14	Principles of Economics	
HIST 1	Western Civilization I	3
or HIST 10	World History to 1500	
Select 6 credits of the following:		6
MATH 17	Finite Mathematics	
MATH 18	Elementary Linear Algebra	
MATH 21	College Algebra I	
MATH 22	College Algebra II and Analytic Geometry	
MATH 26	Plane Trigonometry	
MATH 30	Problem Solving	
MATH 35	General View of Mathematics	
MATH 36	Insights Into Mathematics	
MATH 40	Algebra, Trigonometry, and Analytic Geometry	
MATH 200	Problem Solving in Mathematics	
or MATH 220	Matrices	
STAT 100	Statistical Concepts and Reasoning	
STAT 200	Elementary Statistics	
Supporting Courses and Related Areas ¹		
Select 3 credits of literature courses from approved department list		3

Select 3 credits of 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 psychology from approved department list	3
Select 3 credits of political science	3
Select 3 credits of sociology	3

¹ 6 of these 18 credits must be a the 400-level. In addition, 3 of these must be US cultures.

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 (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy>)

Harrisburg

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Suggested Academic Plan

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

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ENGL 15 or 30 [‡]	3 CAS 100 [‡]	3
MATH 17 (or 18, 21, 22, 26, 30, 35, 36, 40, 200, 220, STAT 100, 200) ^{*#†}	3 MATH 17 or 18, 21, 22, 26, 30, 35, 36, 40, 200, 220, or STAT 100 or 200 ^{*#†}	3
SOC 1 ^{*†}	3 BISC 3 ^{*†}	3
HIST 1 or 10 [*]	3 PSYCH 100 ^{*†}	3
General Education Course	3 HIST 20 ^{*†}	3
	15	15

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Select 3 credit of literature from approved department list ^{*#}	3 ENGL 202A [‡]	3
General Education Course	3 CI 280 [*]	3
General Education Course	3 ECON 104 or 14 [*]	3
EDPSY 14 [*]	3 PLSC 1 [*]	3
HIST 21 ^{*†}	3 General Education Course	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 315W [*]	3
EDUC 314 [*]	3 EDUC 458 [*]	3
GEOG 128 [*]	3 GEOG 40 [*]	3
HIST 320 [*]	3 Select 3 credits of Sociology [*]	3
Select 3 credits of PSYCH from approved department list [*]	3 Select 3 credits of Anthropology from approved department list [*]	3
HDFS 239 [*]	3	
	17	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
EDUC 415 [*]	3 EDUC 490 [*]	12
EDUC 459 [*]	3	
Select 3 credits in PLSC	3	
Elective [*]	3	
Select 3 credit of African African-American (AAAS) or American Studies (AMST) or Minority Studies or History (HIST) from approved department list [*]	3	
	15	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

- Select 3 credits of Literature from approved department list
- Select 3 credits of PSYCH from approved department list
- Select 3 credits of Anthropology from approved department list
- Select 3 credits of African African-American (AAAS) or American Studies (AMST) or Minority Studies or History (HIST) from approved department list.
- At least 6 credit of the following are required at the 400 level. Quantification preferred course is STAT 200.

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University 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.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

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 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-and-education/teacher-education/bachelor-social-science-secondary-education-social-studies/careers-teaching>)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Additional graduate study is available, including the Master of Education in Teaching and Curriculum.

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

Accreditation

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

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES (<https://www.socialstudies.org>)

Contact

Harrisburg

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<http://harrisburg.psu.edu/behavioral-sciences-and-education/teacher-education/bachelor-social-science-secondary-education-social-studies>