Bachelor of Social Science in Secondary Education Social Studies

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. The major prepares students to teach history, government, economics, geography, psychology, sociology, and anthropology. This program is recognized by the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

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.

Contact

Administrative Support Assistant
Rebecca Altland
rka12@psu.edu
+1 717 948 6034

Program Coordinator
Michael J. Swogger, D.Ed.
mjs201@psu.edu
+1 717 948 6380
Curriculum
Certification
The Pennsylvania Department of Education approves this major, and students who successfully complete the requirements and are recommended by the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education will be certified for either the Citizenship Education or Social Science Instructional I Certificate as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Certification requirements for teachers vary by state.

Courses
For a B.SOSC. degree in Secondary Education Social Studies, a minimum of 123 credits is required.

In addition to General Education requirements (45 credits), this major requires the following:

**PRESCRIBED COURSES** (65 credits)
- GEOG 040 GS;IL(3), GEOG 128 GS;IL(3), HD FS 239 GS(3), HIST 320(3), PL SC 001 GS(3) (Sem: 5-8)

**ADDITIONAL COURSES** (12 credits)
Select 6 credits from the following:
- MATH 017 GQ(3), MATH 018 GQ(3), MATH 021 GQ(3), MATH 022 GQ(3), MATH 026 GQ(3), MATH 030 GQ(3), MATH 035 GQ(3), MATH 036 GQ(3), MATH 040 GQ(5), MATH 200 GQ(3) or MATH 220 GQ(2-3), STAT 100 GQ(3), STAT 200 GQ(4) (Sem: 1-4)
- Select 3 credits from: ECON 104 GS(3) or ECON 014 GS(3) (Sem: 1-4)
- Select 3 credits from: HIST 001 GH;IL(3) or HIST 010 GH;IL(3) (Sem: 1-4)

**SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS** (18 credits)
- (6 of these 18 credits must be a the 400-level. In addition, 3 of these must be US cultures)
- Select 3 credits of literature courses from approved department list (Sem: 1-4)
- Select 3 credits of African African-American studies, American studies, history or minority studies from approved department list (Sem: 5-8)
- Select 3 credits of anthropology from approved department list (Sem: 5-8)
- Select 3 credits of psychology from approved department list (Sem: 5-8)
- Select 3 credits of political science (Sem: 5-8)
- Select 3 credits of sociology (Sem: 5-8)

Undergraduate Admissions Requirements
Minimum high school course requirements for admission to baccalaureate (four-year) degree programs are listed below. Keep in mind that specific programs may have additional requirements or recommendations.

**English**
Four units, including one unit each in composition and literature, are required.

**Social Studies/Art/Humanities**
Three units in any combination of social studies, arts, and humanities are required.

**World Language**
Two units in a single world language other than English are required. However, a student may be admitted with fewer than two units in a world language other than English, but must correct this deficiency by the time s/he earns 60 credits or graduates from Penn State, whichever comes first. This deficiency may be corrected by passing one three- or four-credit college level world language course or by demonstrating proficiency equivalent to two units of high school world language study.

Either a third unit in the same language or an additional unit in a second world language other than English is recommended.

**Science**
Three units of science are required
Preparation in chemistry and physics is recommended but not required for our Science and Engineering/Engineering Technology programs

**Math**
Three units of mathematics are required (four are recommended), selected from any combination of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry
Some programs have additional mathematics requirements. Our Business, Engineering/Engineering Technology, and Science programs require one-half unit of trigonometry or higher level math within the required three units

Penn State requires proof of graduation or a GED for admission to four-year degree programs.

*In most high school curricula, one unit = one year.

Visit Undergraduate Admissions: Admissions Requirements for more information ([http://goo.gl/eVGAMB](http://goo.gl/eVGAMB))