

GUIDANCE RECORD FORM
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
Elective Social Studies Teacher Certification Program

NAME: _____ WCU Student ID # _____
 Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Academic Preparation for Teaching Social Studies in Secondary Schools

Education is a constantly changing field, with requirements to be met by the PA Dept. of Education, as well as local districts, let alone university graduation requirements. Be sure to consult your advisor each semester regarding updates of courses, as well as any other program changes.

To satisfy Pennsylvania Department of Education, National Council for the Social Studies and West Chester University standards and to prepare for teaching positions, prospective citizenship education teachers must complete subject matter content courses in

- United States history
- World history (including both western and non-western civilizations)
- Economics
- Geography
- Political science (including United States government)
- Psychology
- Sociology

A Note to the Student

Your teacher-certification program emphasizes content knowledge in the disciplines of **Civics, Economics, Geography, and History**, with secondary attention to Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, and Religious Studies. Forty percent of your courses must be Social Studies **content** courses (not “how to teach”). You must also have a major in an academic discipline of at least 21 credit hours.

As you take coursework in these disciplines, **you will want to focus on acquiring four sets of intellectual skills that you eventually will be expected to teach** in your classroom. These are the skills of:

- **Developing questions** that lead to productive paths of scholarly inquiry in each particular discipline.
- **Applying the tools and concepts** used in each discipline, in order to explore possible answers to the questions you develop.
- **Evaluating sources and using evidence** appropriate to each discipline, in order to more effectively evaluate your answers to the questions you develop.
- **Communicating your conclusions** in the formats appropriate to each discipline, and using those conclusions to identify ways to **take informed action** as an educated and engaged citizen.

Collective, those skills create what teachers call the “**Inquiry Arc**” which we want you to master as a scholar, and then be able to teach to your own students. (The NCSS C3 Framework publication, **College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards: Guidance for Enhancing the Rigor of K-12 Civics, Economics, Geography, and History** outlines these expectations in detail and is available for download at: <https://www.socialstudies.org/c3>)

These goals should guide you in the selection of courses in your academic major and *all* of your electives, including those under General Education requirements. Consider that as a professional secondary school educator, you most likely will be teaching United States History, World History, World Cultures and Religions, Geography, United States Civics, and applied Economics and Consumerism. Where you have a choice between different courses to fulfill your requirements, you will want to select the option that best addresses the content and skills identified here.

Depending on your interests and scheduling needs, your choice of courses may also lead you to a second major or a minor in one of the social studies or education disciplines. A minor in Literacy, or Special Education, or Youth Empowerment and Urban Studies can greatly enhance your teaching credentials. Fluency in a foreign language, especially Spanish, also will improve your employment prospects. Consider ASL as another route to meeting your language requirement in a way that boosts your employability as a teacher. Discuss these important options with your advisor.

If you seek employment in this field, you probably will be teaching United States history, geography, world history and/or world cultures in secondary schools. You need to select courses that will prepare you specifically for these fields, *especially those in the non-western world*. In addition, courses which enable you to *use computers and the new technology* will add significantly to your resume. Fluency in a foreign language, *especially Spanish*, will enhance your employment prospects.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

Note to Students: These requirements are subject to change. *Contact your advisor at least once a semester.* In case of discrepancy, the college catalog supercedes this form.

Note to Students and Advisors: In the spaces below, record the grade of the course and the semester in which it was taken (ex: ENG 120 A Fall '99). Use "T" for transferred courses.

Note to Transfer Students: "TRN" courses may only be used as Free Electives. Disciplinary 199 courses (e.g. MAT 199, LIT 199) may be used to satisfy general education requirements. Interdisciplinary and Writing Emphasis designations may not be transferred.

GENERAL EDUCATION

I. ACADEMIC FOUNDATIONS: 18 Credits: The University requires two Effective Writing (WRT) courses and one Math requirement to be completed within your first 64 credits.

- | | <i>Abbrev.</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Grade</i> | <i>Semester</i> | |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|--|
| ○ Effective Writing I | WRT | 120 | _____ | _____ | |
| ○ Effective Writing II | WRT | _____ | _____ | _____ | (200, 204, 205, 206, 208, or 220) |
| ○ Mathematics | MAT | 103 | _____ | _____ | (a course above 103 is acceptable) |
| ○ Communication | SPK | 208 or 230 | _____ | _____ | |
| ○ Diverse Communities (J) | | | _____ | _____ | |
| | | | | | ▪ (LAN/ENG 382, PSC 301, 323, 340, OR 343 recommended because they <i>can</i> double-count for "J" and EDU or PSC requirements) |
| ○ Interdisciplinary (I) | | | _____ | _____ | |
| | | | | | ▪ (PSC 318 Rec'd. to double for ED or PSC requirement). The Interdisciplinary (I) course may <i>not</i> be used to fulfill a Gen. Ed. Distributive requirement, diverse communities or foreign culture course requirement. |

II. DISTRIBUTIVE REQUIREMENTS: 21 Credits

A. Sciences: Select two courses from two of the following disciplines (except for BIO 102 and ESS 102, which are (I)): Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science (No CSW; CSC 101 or 110 recd.), Astronomy/Geology (ESS), and Physics.

Abbrev. Number Grade Semester

_____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____

B. Behavioral and Social Sciences:

Grade Semester

PSY 100 _____ _____

SOC 200 _____ _____

C. Humanities: Select one Literature course (CLS 165 *Intro to Lit.* recommended, doubles as "W" course) and best to start with History 101, of the four required History courses for Citizenship Education.

Number Grade Semester

LIT/CLS _____ _____ _____

HIS 101 _____ _____

D. The Arts: Select one course from art history, or music history (these two areas recd.); or art, cinematography, dance, music, photography, theater.

Abbrev. Number Grade Semester

_____ _____ _____ _____

E. Free Electives (9 credits of your choice. Cannot be used to fulfill other General Education or Major requirements):

Grade Semester

MAT 104 _____ _____ (another college-level Math or Statistics course is acceptable)

EDP 250 _____ _____ (Educational Psychology; part of education core)

EDA 103 _____ _____ (Foundations of Special Education; part of education core)

III. WRITING EMPHASIS:

All students entering with fewer than 40 credits must take three Writing Emphasis courses. These courses are designated with a "W" in the master schedule. Students entering with 40 to 70 credits must take two Writing Emphasis courses; students entering with more than 70 credits must take one. At least one writing emphasis course must be at the 300 or 400 level. (NB: PSC 200, PSC 230, PSC 320, EDS 306, and SSC 331 are "W" courses.)

Writing Emphasis Courses: _____; _____; _____
course sem. course sem. course sem.

V. Foreign Language: 12-15 credits

Political Science majors must successfully complete a language other than English through the 202 level, or the 102 level if taking three additional Culture Cluster courses. We strongly recommend Spanish. 12-15 credits, depending on option chosen:

Language _____

Option 1: Chosen language through the 202 level

101 _____; 102 _____; 201 _____; 202 _____

Option 2: Chosen language through the 102 and three culture clusters. If taking Spanish, PSC340 is recommended as a culture cluster.

101 _____; 102 _____; CC1 _____; CC2 _____; CC3 _____

POLITICAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS:**POLITICAL SCIENCE CORE COURSES: 21 Credits**

PSC 100 _____ PSC 200 _____ PSC 213 _____ PSC 230 _____
 (*American Govt.*) (*Political Analysis*) (*Intro. to Intl. Relations*) (*Intro. to Pol. Thought*)

PSC 202 _____ PSC 240 _____ PSC 401 _____
 (*Public Administration*) (*Comparative Politics*) (*Senior Project*)

POLITICAL SCIENCE GENERAL CONCENTRATION: 18 Credits**A. Two courses (6 credits) in the Institutional Area: PSC 350, 352, 355, or 359**

	course title	abbrev.	number	grade	semester
1)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

B. Two courses (6 credits) in the Behavioral Area: PSC 301, 322, 323, 325, or 329

	course title	abbrev.	number	grade	semester
1)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

C. Two additional PSC courses (6 credits) at the 300 level. 3 credits can come from an approved PSC Internship (PSC 412).

	course title	abbrev.	number	grade	semester
1)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

PSC COGNATES (Related areas): 12 Credits

Course title	grade	semester
GEO 101 or 103 World or <i>Human Geography</i>	_____	_____
SOC 200 (also required as a Behavioral and Social Science gen-ed)	_____	_____
ECO 101 or 111 or 112 Principles of (<i>Survey</i>) or <i>Macro</i> or <i>Micro</i>	_____	_____
HIS 151 <i>US History I</i>	_____	_____

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED EDUCATION COURSES, FORMAL ADMISSION TO TEACHER EDUCATION, STUDENT-TEACHING AND CERTIFICATION:

For Education Courses Requiring Field Experiences/Observations in Public Schools, you will need to obtain

1. PA Criminal Background Check
2. PA Child Abuse Clearance
3. FBI Criminal Background Check
4. Tuberculosis Test

These [clearances will need to be on file with the Office of Clinical Experiences](https://www.wcupa.edu/education-socialwork/clearances.aspx), 125 West Rosedale Ave., Suite 107, Wayne Hall <https://www.wcupa.edu/education-socialwork/clearances.aspx>

Formal Admission to Teacher Education:

1. Completed at least 48 credits
2. An overall GPA of 2.8 or higher in all courses. Overall GPA _____
3. Achieved passing scores on the Reading, Math, and Writing examinations of either PAPA (Pearson's Pre-Service Academic Performance Assessment) or CORE (ETS's Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests), or by testing out with qualifying ACT or SAT scores. Information on passing scores can be found [here https://www.wcupa.edu/education-socialwork/paTests.aspx](https://www.wcupa.edu/education-socialwork/paTests.aspx)

Reading	Date taken _____	Passed _____
Math	Date taken _____	Passed _____
Writing	Date taken _____	Passed _____

4. Earned six credits of English Composition and Literature _____
5. Earned six credits of Mathematics _____
6. Obtained a recommendation for admission from the Department of History

For admission to Student-Teaching (EDS 411/412), you must:

1. Take PRAXIS II (Social Studies Content Knowledge--#10081) and report scores to your advisor. (Date taken: _____)

For PA Certification in Social Studies, you must complete the required curriculum and . . .

1. Complete both halves of Student-Teaching with a grade of "C" or higher (NOT C-);
2. Pass the PRAXIS II (Social Studies Content Knowledge--#10081) (Date passed: _____); (A passing score is 157*)
3. Attain a GPA of 3.0* or higher upon graduation.

*Pennsylvania Department of Education permits passing Praxis II with a score as low as 152 and a sufficiently high GPA. Likewise, PDE permits a GPA as low as a 2.8 with a Praxis II score of 162. See [Sliding Scale chart](https://www.wcupa.edu/education-socialwork/documents/SlideingScaleAsOfMarch272017.pdf) for more detail. <https://www.wcupa.edu/education-socialwork/documents/SlideingScaleAsOfMarch272017.pdf>