

Handbook for Social Science Secondary Education Students

Students completing a degree in Social Science Education will be licensed to teach history, government, economics, geography, psychology, sociology, and anthropology, with a designation in history. A designation means that students will be able to teach AP courses in that particular discipline. Students who wish to earn a designation in additional subject areas must take the Illinois content exam(s) in those additional subjects. For more details on this exam, please refer to the section titled “Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) Content Exam” in this handbook.

Because social science education is a competitive field, students should pay particular attention to maintaining high grades, especially in their content-area courses. School administrators expect a strong academic performance in those subject areas that student teaching candidates and job candidates are applying to teach. All courses required for this degree must be completed with a grade of C or above, and you must achieve an overall SXU GPA of 3.0 as well as submit proof of passing the state of Illinois Basic Skills requirement to be admitted to the School of Education (SOE). You will see your current SXU GPA when you run your program evaluation on Self Service. With that said, schools that are hiring often look for A’s and B’s in the content areas you will be certified to teach.

If you are pursuing a degree in Social Science Education, your major area of specialization includes the following coursework:

Social Science Core (15 hours)

SOC 101, SOCSOC 101, SOCSOC 204, POLSC 101, and POLSC 102

History Concentration (21 hours)

HIST 101, HIST 102, HIST 103, HIST 104, HIST 230, a 200/300-level HIST elective, and a 200/300-level Non-US HIST elective. At least one of the history electives must be a 300-level course.

Social Science Disciplinary Specialty (9 hours)

Nine hours in Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, or Political Science, not including courses listed under the Social Science Core. No more than two of these electives should be in the same discipline.

Methods (6 hours)

HIST 200 and HIST 395

In addition, you are required to take eight education courses:

EDU 200 (introduction to teaching), EDU 323 (exceptional learners), PSYCH 201 (adolescent psychology), EDU 202 (educational psychology), EDU 377 (social trends in education), EDU 370 (developing lesson plans, edTPA task 1), EDU 397 (teaching literacy), EDU 378 (social science methods, edTPA tasks 2 and 3)

Advising

Plan to meet with your academic advisor from the Department of History and Political Science at least once each semester to discuss your program of study. Once you have met either conditional or full admission into the School of Education (SOE), you will be assigned a second advisor. Meeting regularly with both of your advisors will help prevent an oversight that might postpone your expected graduation date because of a missed deadline, requirement, or prerequisite. If you do not know who is assigned to be your academic advisor, email Gail Crossley at crossley@sxu.edu. You can also ask her to change your advisor at any time. If you do not know who is assigned to be your education advisor, please email Renee Zdych at zdych@sxu.edu. Before meeting with your advisors, be sure to evaluate your program on Self Service and create a tentative course schedule for the next semester. Your academic advisor will guide you in choosing your coursework. Your SOE advisor will guide you in meeting SOE benchmarks. Remember, your program of study is ultimately your responsibility.

When preparing your course schedules, remember that the following courses are offered only once an academic year:

Historical Methods (HIST 200), offered each spring

Illinois History (HIST 230), offered each fall

Economics for Secondary Teachers (SOCSC 204), offered each fall

Methods of Teaching History and Social Studies in Middle and Secondary School (EDU 378), offered each fall

Senior Seminar (HIST 395), offered each spring

Prerequisites:

Content Area

Students are required to take two 100-level history courses before taking History 200.

Students are required to take History 200 before taking a 300-level history elective.

Students are required to take a 300-level history elective before taking Senior Seminar.

Education Courses

EDU 200 should be taken first.

Students are required to take PSYCH 201 before taking EDU 202.

Students are required to take EDU 323 before taking EDU 370.

Students are required to take EDU 370 before taking EDU 378.

Students should take EDU 397 either before taking EDU 378 or concurrently.

Please note that in order to declare a social science secondary education as a major or enrolling in education coursework, you must meet either the SOE conditional admission or full admission requirements. Please see Admission to the School of Education section beginning on page 6.

First Year:

During your first year at SXU, plan to take a number of classes meeting core requirements for the university's General Education program, with an emphasis on Level I requirements. Plan to take ENGL 120, COMM 101, college-level math, and a first-year seminar. These courses will help you succeed in your other coursework, and if you decide to switch majors, the core requirements will still be part of your new program of study.

Be sure to take at least two of the required 100-level history courses. You will not be able to enroll in Historical Methods (HIST 200) until you have met this prerequisite. All required courses must be completed with a grade of C or above.

Avoid taking 200-level courses during your first year.

Second Year:

We highly recommend that you take your methods course (HIST 200) during the spring semester of your sophomore year. You will not be able to enroll in a 300-level history course until you have successfully completed this prerequisite with a grade of C or above. If you have not completed two 100-level history courses, be sure to complete this prerequisite for HIST 200 during the fall semester. You might also consider taking Economics for Social Science Teachers (SOCSC 204) during the fall semester.

This year, you will begin taking education classes. You should take EDU 200 during the fall semester. This course will be your introduction to the School of Education. You might also take other Level I education courses (PSYCH 201, EDU 202, EDU 323, EDU 377). Remember that PSYCH 201 should be taken before EDU 202, and EDU 323 should be taken before EDU 370. Most of the education courses require observation hours in local schools. When developing your course schedule, pay attention to how many observation hours are required for each class. You do not want to stack up too many hours during one semester because they will be difficult to complete. If possible, leave at least one day free of coursework so that you are able to complete your hours without a time conflict. Completing observation hours is not an excuse for missing class. For more information, the field experience handbook can be found at https://my.sxu.edu/academics/SOE/Field_Experiences/Pages/default.aspx

You can also access the handbooks by following these steps:

1. Go to MySXU
2. Login
3. Go to Academics
4. Go to School of Education
5. Find the menu on the left side and choose Field Experience

During your second year at SXU, you will want to be admitted to the School of Education, which requires an overall GPA of 3.0 and passing the Illinois Basic Skills Requirement. You should register for either the ACT, SAT, or the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) if you have not yet

met this requirement. You will not be allowed to enroll in Level II education courses until you have been admitted to the SOE. For more information, please refer to the section titled “Admission to the School of Education” in this handbook.

You should consider taking one or two upper-division electives. Remember that some of these electives will also satisfy General Education requirements. For example, an African American history course will also satisfy one of the diversity requirements for General Education, and a Non-U.S. history course might satisfy a global studies requirement. Keep these factors in mind when choosing electives.

Social Science Education majors will take five upper-division electives, according to the following distribution:

One 200/300-level history course

One 200/300-level non-US history course

Three 100/200/300-level sociology, anthropology, political science, or economics courses

At least one of the two history courses must be at the 300-level. Remember, you will not be able to register for a 300-level course until you have successfully completed your methods course (HIST 200) with a grade of C or higher. It is highly recommended that you take at least one 200-level elective before taking your 300-level elective. In addition, no more than two of your social science electives should be in the same discipline. Demonstrating breadth on your transcript will help you succeed during student teaching and on the job market.

Transfer Students:

The department strongly recommends that you arrange a meeting with Karen Benjamin, the coordinator of the social science education program, prior to the beginning of your first semester at SXU to ensure that you enroll in appropriate courses. A failure to do so may result in lost credit hours or delayed graduation. Contact Karen Benjamin by email (benjamin@sxu.edu) to arrange a meeting prior to your first semester of taking courses at this institution. If you are planning on a secondary education major, you must also meet with Maureen Spelman (spelman@sxu.edu), Director for Initial Licensure Programs prior to your first semester.

Once you are officially a student at SXU, you will be assigned an academic advisor in the History and Political Science Department. Be sure to meet with your advisor during your first semester on campus. Once you have achieved either conditional or full admission to the School of Education, you will also be assigned an education advisor. Because of the extensive requirements for this program, transfer students have fewer options when arranging their schedules. Map out your remaining semesters and then discuss your two- or three-year plan with your advisor. It is important to plan ahead so that you will be able to complete your degree in a timely manner.

Evaluate your program in Self-Service to find out which of your completed courses transferred into what requirements, and which courses you still need to take. If you suspect an error, contact your academic advisor. Most errors are easily corrected.

During your first semester at SXU, you should register for either the ACT, SAT, or the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) if you have not yet met the Illinois Basic Skills Requirement. You must pass this requirement to be admitted to the School of Education (SOE), and you must be admitted to SOE before you take Level II education courses. For more information, please refer to the section titled “Admission to the School of Education” in this handbook.

Take Historical Methods (HIST 200) during the spring semester of your first year at SXU. If you have not already completed the prerequisite of two 100-level history courses, be sure to do so during your fall semester. You will not be able to enroll in a 300-level research seminar until you have successfully completed your methods course with a grade of C or above.

Third Year:

During your third year, consider taking Illinois History (HIST 230) during the fall semester. You might also take your 300-level elective during the fall semester, especially if you are planning to student teach during the spring semester of your fourth year. If this is your plan, you will need to take Senior Seminar during the spring of your third year. (Because of the extensive requirements for this degree, many students graduate during their fifth year.)

We also recommend that you take Principles and Practice of Teaching in Middle and Secondary School (EDU 370) during your third year. It is the prerequisite for Methods of Teaching History and Social Studies in Middle and Secondary School (EDU 378). It is also highly recommended that you take EDU 397 before taking EDU 378. You will take EDU 378 during the fall semester before you student teach. The more content-area courses you complete before taking this course, the more successful you will be at completing the curriculum assignments and designing lesson plan units in the social sciences. Be aware that EDU 370 and EDU 378 require 30 observation hours each!

Furthermore, students must apply for student teaching a whole year in advance of the semester they wish to student teach. Thus, if you are planning to student teach during the spring semester of your fourth year, apply to student teach in the spring semester of your third year. For more information on applying to student teach, please refer to the section titled “Applying to Student Teach” in this handbook.

Fourth and Fifth Years:

You will take Senior Seminar (HIST 395) during your final spring semester before student teaching. Senior Seminar serves as your capstone course, and it will require that you write an article-length research paper from primary sources. Avoid stacking up too many rigorous courses during the semester you take Senior Seminar. You will need permission to register for this class. Email Gail Crossley at crossley@sxu.edu.

You will take Methods of Teaching History and Social Studies (EDU 378) during the fall semester before you student teach. Thus, you will take EDU 378 during the fall semester of your fourth year if you plan to student teach during the spring semester of your fourth year or the fall semester of your fifth year. You will take EDU 378 during the fall semester of your fifth year if you plan to student teach during the spring semester of your fifth year.

Consider taking the Illinois content exam (#114) at the beginning of your fourth year or during the semester you apply for student teaching. For more details on this exam, please refer to the section titled “Illinois Certification Testing System (ICTS) Content Exam” in this handbook.

You must apply for student teaching one year in advance of the semester you wish to student teach. If you plan to student teach during the fall of your fifth year, apply to student teach during the fall semester of your fourth year. If you are planning to student teach during the spring semester of your fifth year, apply to student teach in the spring semester of your fourth year. If you miss the deadline to apply for student teaching, you will not be able to student teach until the following semester. For more information on applying to student teach, please refer to the section titled “Applying to Student Teach” in this handbook.

Admission to the School of Education AY 2016-17

You must be admitted to the School of Education (SOE) before enrollment in Level II coursework, including all teaching methodology courses.

Full admission to SOE (Level II coursework) requires:

- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Passing the State of Illinois Basic Skills Requirement, which can be met in one of 5 ways:
 - a passing score on the ‘old’ Illinois Tests of Basic Skills (096 or 300) – *replaced by the current Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP)*,
 - a passing score on all 4 sections of the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP),
 - a composite score on the ACT Plus Writing of 22 or higher and a minimum score of 19 on the Combined English/Writing at one test administration taken on the same date (before 9/1/2015),
 - a composite score on the ACT Plus Writing of 22 or higher and a minimum score of 8 in Writing at one test administration taken on the same date (after 9/1/2015), or
 - a composite score on the SAT of 1030 (critical reading + mathematics = 1030 or higher) *and* a minimum score of 450 on writing at one test administration taken on the same date.

Conditional Admission to SOE (Level I coursework) requires:

- Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Progress toward meeting the Basic Skills Requirement:
 - a passing score on 2 out of 4 sections of the TAP,

- a composite score of 20 on the ACT, or
- a composite score of 950 (critical reading + mathematics = 950) on the SAT.

Applying to Student Teach

The process and requirements for Admission to Clinical Practice (Student Teaching) include:

- Minimum SXU GPA of 3.0 at the time of application for student teaching.
- Submission of an online application for student teaching a year before student teaching begins: by January 15 for a spring placement the following year, or by September 15 for a fall placement the following year.
- Successful completion of all professional education courses except EDU 345 (Student Teaching Seminar), all general education courses, and all requirements in the major area of specialization or in the area of concentration at the start of student teaching. A minimum grade of C must be earned in all courses.
- Proof of passing the ICTS content-area tests (#114 for SOCSC education majors) at a time that assures reporting of results prior to the start of student teaching according to the deadlines established by the Office of Teacher Education.
- Submission of the electronic LiveText portfolio to the Office of Initial Licensure Programs, and successful completion of an Educators Symposium the semester prior to student teaching. See your education advisor for questions about your LiveText Portfolio and the Educators Symposium.
- Completion of all required health screenings.
- Completion of all required field experience hours.
- Submission of an updated CBI, if requested.

Student teaching candidates must attend a student teaching application meeting one year prior to the semester they plan to student teach. The required paperwork must be submitted to Jane Lundin, the Director for School Partnerships, who will guide you through the application process.

For more information, the clinical practice/student teaching handbook can be found at <https://my.sxu.edu/academics/SOE/Pages/Application-Process-for-Clinical-Practice-Student-Teaching.aspx>

You can access the handbook by following these steps:

1. Go to MySXU
2. Login
3. Go to Academics
4. Go to School of Education
5. find the menu on the left side and choose Clinical Practice/Student Teaching

Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) Content Exam

Licensure test dates, registration materials, study guides, and practice diagnostic tests are available at <http://www.icts.nesinc.com/>.

Students completing the Social Science Education degree should register for Social Science: History (test #114). This test includes four subareas:

- I. Social Science Foundations
- II. History Common Core
- III. Historical Concepts and World History
- IV. U.S. and Illinois History

If you are seeking a designation in an additional area besides history, then you will also register for the exam in that area. For example, a designation in political science, which allows you to teach AP government, would require passing Social Science: Political Science (test #117).

Register online at <https://www.il.nesinc.com/>. See Karen Benjamin (benjamin@sxu.edu) for additional help preparing for the exam.

edTPA

Teacher candidates are required to pass the edTPA performance assessment in order to obtain licensure in Illinois. Students will work with their education instructors to practice the edTPA tasks prior to student teaching (EDU 370 and EDU 397). The official edTPA is completed during the first 8 weeks of the student teaching semester. Below is a brief description of the assessment:

The Teacher Performance Assessment is a performance and knowledge assessment for pre-service teachers that is designed to measure teacher candidate effectiveness in the classroom by focusing on student learning.

The edTPA consists of five key competencies: planning, assessment, instruction, reflection, and academic language. The process used is similar to the process used for National Board certification. The student teacher must upload a professional portfolio to Pearson's secure site. Specific items reflecting the competencies must be present in the portfolio including video recordings of the student teacher interacting with students in the classroom, lesson plans, student work samples, analysis of student learning, planning and assessment documentation, and reflective commentaries.

The official edTPA (created, implemented, and submitted during the student teaching semester) is intended to be used as a summative assessment at the end of an educator preparation program and to support state and national program accreditation by providing

evidence for program completion and/or teacher licensure decisions.

Endorsements

An endorsement provides licensure in an additional discipline or area. Most endorsements require additional coursework and passing the Illinois content exam in the appropriate subject area.

Because positions in the social sciences are very competitive, you may wish to explore an endorsement at the secondary level, especially if you already have a large number of credits in a second field such as math, science, or a foreign language. Since the degree in Social Science Education already requires a lengthy program of study, carefully consider the added cost and time before seeking an endorsement in an additional field.

Secondary Level Endorsements in an Additional Field – for grades 9–12 on a Type 09 or Type 10 License

- Minimum 24 hours of college level coursework in the endorsed area (see the Illinois State Board of Education exceptions below).
 - Earned at any accredited 2 year or 4 year college or university
 - Earned with a minimum grade of ‘C’
 - Documented on official transcripts submitted to the Office of Teacher Education for verification and submission to the Illinois State Board of Education.
- Passing score on the appropriate subject-area ILTS Content-Area Licensure Test
- Exceptions*:
 - Bilingual Education: 18 hrs in 5 designated areas; Passing score on appropriate ICTS Language Proficiency Test
 - English as a Second Language: 18 hrs in 5 designated areas
 - Health Careers: 24 hrs; Passing score on the appropriate subject-area ILTS Content-Area Licensure Test; Licensure in specific health field
 - Reading Teacher: 24 hrs covering 6 designated topics; Passing score on Reading Teacher or Reading Specialist Certification Test
 - Social Science and Science Designations
 - Social Science Designations - History, Geography, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology
 - Science Designations – Biology, Chemistry, Earth & Space Science, Environmental Science, Physics
 - First Designation
 - Minimum 32 hrs in social science or science courses, including 12 hrs in designation & coursework covering 2 other designations
 - Passing score on appropriate ILTS Content Area Licensure Test for the designation
 - Additional Designation: Passing score on appropriate ILTS Content Area Licensure Test for the designation

For further information on endorsements, please contact Beth Carroll, Licensure Officer, at ecarroll@sxu.edu.

Contacts:

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Matthew Costello, Professor of Political Science and Chair of the History and Political Science Department, costello@sxu.edu

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