

## Social Science Education

### Composite Major

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### Major

The curriculum for a Social Science Education major is designed to enhance your understanding and interest in professional education within the Social Science area as well as to produce a Social Science professional who is a knowledge-based decision maker. The curriculum encompasses a wide range of areas: geography, political science, economics, sociology, anthropology, and history; all explore the ways that human beings, as societies or cultures, relate to each other and their environments and how they establish structured systems to effectively govern and administer their activities. Each area has a distinct knowledge base and point of view that collectively form a cohesive grouping of studies designed to train students to deal with people in a wide variety of settings and help manage the problems of society. The Barnes County Historical Museum gives students the opportunities for practical, hands-on experience, archives for research, and community involvement. In comparison to the History Education degree, Social Science Education is broader in coursework, preparing students to meet more diverse needs. Job opportunities in this field of education are currently very strong, and most of our graduates readily find teaching positions.

### Explore Social Science

- [www.ssrc.org/](http://www.ssrc.org/) (<http://www.ssrc.org/>)

### ACCREDITATIONS

- Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)

### GET INVOLVED IN YOUR MAJOR

VCSU has an active Phi Alpha Theta/History Club, allowing students to develop leadership skills and promote history across campus. Students have opportunities to present their research at the Dakota History Conference and the Northern Great Plains History Conference, in regional, professional history settings. The Social Science Department also periodically organizes overseas travel opportunities for VCSU students.

### Teacher Education Requirements

Students are typically admitted into Teacher Education during their sophomore year or beginning of their junior year of college. This program requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher and successful completion of the Praxis I test. Additional criteria for Admission to Teacher Education can be found at the following website: [www.vcsu.edu/teacher\\_ed](http://www.vcsu.edu/teacher_ed).

### Practical Experience

As a Social Science Education major you are placed into schools for a series of field experiences including Introduction to Education (40 hours); Practicum (80 hours); Culturally Diverse Practicum (25 hours involving 3 consecutive full days in a classroom), and a twelve-week student teaching field experience completed in a location that works well for the student and

university. Student teaching is the culminating experience of the program and the opportunity for students to apply all they have learned regarding their classroom preparation and field experience opportunities.

*"VCSU challenges students to grow, and that's achieved by giving students opportunities both on and off campus to test and strengthen their abilities. I'm a better writer and student because of the Dakota History Conference and numerous opportunities VCSU has given me." —Mark Huber '09, Ellendale, N.D.*

*"The VCSU Social Science Department truly prepared me to excel in the classroom during my student teaching experience. Because of the department's guidance and command of the subject matter, I entered the school confident in my teaching abilities. The professors not only taught us content, but also strategies to implement to teach the social sciences in an informative and engaging way. I feel very grateful to have learned from the professors I did, and very satisfied about my teaching style that was cultivated due, in part, to this program." —Scott Westby '15, Sheyenne, N.D.*

### Plan of Study

#### First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CIS 170 (Gen Ed)	3	ENGL 120 (Gen Ed)	3
COMM 212 (Gen Ed)	3	GEOG 151	3
ENGL 110 (Gen Ed)	3	HIST 104	3
HIST 103	3	HIST 267 (Gen Ed)	3
MATH 104 (Gen Ed)	3	HPER 100 (Gen Ed)	2
POLS 115	3	Lab Science (Gen Ed)	4
UNIV 150	1		
	19		18

#### Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
EDUC 250	3	ECON 202	3
ECON 201	3	ECON 460	3
HIST 211	3	EDUC 283	3
Lab Science (Gen Ed)	4	GEOG 111 (Gen Ed)	2
POLS 116	3	HIST 212	3
PSYC 111 (Gen Ed)	3	PSYC 250	3
	19		17

#### Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Art and Music (Gen Ed)	3	ECON 314	3
EDUC 300	2	EDUC 240	3
HIST 470	3	EDUC 450	2
Literacies (Gen Ed)	3	GEOG 325	3
POLS 376	3	GEOG 362	3
POLS 425	3	GEOG 460	3

		HIST 220	3
	17		20
<b>Fourth Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Credits</b>
EDUC 351	1	EDUC 400	2
EDUC 352	1	EDUC 480	10
EDUC 375	2		
HIST 400	3		
HIST 490	3		
HIST 491	1		
PSYC 330	3		
SOC 300	3		
	17		12

Total Credits 139

Please note: This plan is intended for general information only. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their academic advisor each semester before registration.



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