



Social Science Education

About this Composite 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.

Meet a Student



"Coming into VCSU I was undecided but knew I had an interest in education. During my freshman year I declared my major as History Education and later found out about the Social Science Education major, which I transferred to my sophomore year. The Social Science Education major provides a broader study of the social sciences and allows me as a future educator to teach more subjects and topics within Social Studies. My classes range from history, political science, geography, economics, and sociology under the composite major. The Social Science Education major allows the opportunity to explore all areas which

greatly appealed to me." - Alyssa Ames, Northwood, N.D., Social Science Education student

"The online History Education program at VCSU is excellent. My advisor supported me throughout my time in the program, and the professors that I took classes with were very helpful and always available when needed. My time in the History Education program has been a positive experience. I received a high-quality education that pushed me to grow academically, as well as prepared me to go into the classroom successfully." - Christine Fandrich '21

"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.

Hands-On Experiences



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



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currently very strong, and most of our graduates readily find teaching positions.

Explore Social Science

- Social Science Research Council (<http://www.ssrc.org/>)
- American Historical Association (<http://www.historians.org/>)
- Society of American Archivists (<http://www.archivists.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.onestop.vcsu.edu (<https://onestop.vcsu.edu/support/solutions/articles/10000052001-teacher-education/>).

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.

Contact Information

Department Chair

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Faculty Contact

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Department Location

McFarland Hall 315

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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 210 (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	3
POLS 116	3	HIST 212	3
PSYC 111 (Gen Ed)	3	PSYC 250	3
	19		18

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Art and Music (Gen Ed)	3	EDUC 240	3
EDUC 300	2	EDUC 450	2
HIST 470	3	GEOG 325	3
Literacies (Gen Ed)	3	GEOG 362	3
POLS 220	3	GEOG 460	3
POLS 376	3	HIST 220	3
	17		17

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
EDUC 351	1	EDUC 480	10
EDUC 352	1	HIST 491	1
EDUC 375	2		
HIST 400	3		
HIST 490	3		
PSYC 330	3		
SOC 300	3		
EDUC 400	2		
	18		11

Total Credits 137

Learning Outcomes

1. Content: Students will accumulate knowledge and understanding of the necessary material to establish historical context and causality. Content will be demonstrated by thesis driven, evidence based responses to historical scenarios.
2. Social theory: Students will develop an understanding of the philosophies, methodologies, and theories that define, give meaning to, and shape scholarly understanding of the social sciences. Social theory will be demonstrated through thesis driven research that applies relevant theories or methodologies to historical writing.
3. Application: Students will demonstrate their content knowledge and understanding of social theory and use them in a manner that illustrates that they can apply it in real world experiences.

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