



Social Science

About this Composite Major

The Social Science curriculum encompasses a wide range of areas: geography, political science, economics, sociology 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 of the areas has a knowledge base and a point of view that is distinctly its own, but together they form a cohesive grouping of studies designed to train students to deal with people in a wide variety of settings and to manage the problems of society. The wide variety of subject matter is designed to produce generalists who may either value their education as an end in itself, use the Social Science degree as a springboard to career placement in related fields, or who elect to pursue graduate work in a more specialized context.

Meet a Student



My time at VCSU was filled with a lot of exciting experiences. I was able to explore my passion in history by being given an opportunity to present a paper on Native American Education. I also was able to participate in several clubs, one being History Club/Phi Alpha Theta. Valley City gave me multiple opportunities to pursue my passion to become a teacher. VCSU did not only help me grow in my education, I was also able to grow as a person.
- Kylie Johnson '20, West Fargo, ND

Career Opportunities



Career opportunities for individuals with a Social Science degree include

- Law
- Government service
- Museum work
- Archivist
- Broadcasting
- Campaign worker
- Consultant
- Editor
- Foreign service officer
- Intelligence agent
- Journalist
- Researcher

Explore Social Science

There are multiple places to find career and volunteer opportunities related to social sciences. Explore some of those opportunities here:

- www.ssrc.org/ (<http://www.ssrc.org/>)
- [www.careers.state.gov](https://careers.state.gov/) (<https://careers.state.gov/>)
- www.historians.org (<http://www.historians.org/>)
- www.archivists.org (<http://www.archivists.org/>)



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.

Practical Experience

You are encouraged to earn credits by extending your learning beyond the classroom. The Barnes County Historical Museum gives students the opportunities for practical, hands-on experience, archives for research, and community involvement. Both behavioral science and business internships are available if you lack previous employment experience. You may earn credit in an internship program that provides supervised training in regional areas.

Contact Information

Department Chair

Dr. Emily Fenster, emily.fenster@vcsu.edu, (701) 845-7313

Faculty Contact

Dr. Steven King, steven.king@vcsu.edu, (701) 845-7108

Department Location

McFarland Hall 315, (701) 845-7301

Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CIS 170 (Gen Ed)	3	Concentration or Related Field or Cultural Block	3
COMM 212 (Gen Ed)	3	ENGL 120 (Gen Ed)	3
ENGL 110 (Gen Ed)	3	HIST 104 or 212 (Gen Ed)	3
MATH 210 (Gen Ed)	3	HPER 100 (Gen Ed)	2
POLS 115	3	Lab Science (Gen Ed)	4
UNIV 150	1		
	16		15

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Concentration or Related Field or Cultural Block	3	Art and Music (Gen Ed)	3
Lab Science (Gen Ed)	4	Concentration or Related Field or Cultural Block	3
Literacies (Gen Ed)	3	ECON 201 or 202	3
PSYC 111 (Gen Ed)	3	GEOG 111 (Gen Ed)	3
SOC 110	3	History 300-level course	3
		PSYC 250	3
	16		18

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Concentration/Related Field or Cultural Block	3	Concentration or Related Field or Cultural Block	3
Elective	3	Concentration or Related Field or Cultural Block	3
GEOG 151	3	ECON 300-level course	3
Geog 300-level course	3	Elective	3
HIST 300-level course	3	PSYC 300-level course	3
	15		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Concentration or Related Field or Cultural Block	3	Concentration or Related Field or Cultural Block	3
Concentration or Related Field or Cultural Block	3	Concentration or Related Field or Cultural Block	3
Elective	3	Concentration or Related Field or Cultural Block	3
POLS 300-level course	3	HIST 491	1
SOC 300-level course	3	Internship	2
	15		12

Total Credits 122

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



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.