

Content Area Guidelines for M.Ed Secondary Education: Teaching – Social Studies

This worksheet describes expectations for admission to the program and is an optional attachment to submit with your application. Applicants can use this form to understand the content area requirements for Social Studies and get a sense of where they stand. Faculty will evaluate applications to determine an admissions decision based on the criteria below. It is possible that some candidates are admitted conditionally pending the completion of additional courses. Passing the Praxis II Social Studies (5581) exam is required to begin coursework.

I. REQUIRED CREDITS AND GPA IN SOCIAL STUDIES

An undergraduate major in one of the social sciences (History, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science) is preferred although not required. Studies must include 30 credits in the social sciences with a minimum content area GPA of 3.0 (courses outside content area can be excluded from GPA calculation). Use the table to list out the number of social sciences courses taken and a total credit count below:

COURSE CODE AND TITLE	UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE	CREDIT AMOUNT:	GRADE EARNED:
<i>SOC 123—Sociology Example</i>	<i>XYZ University</i>	3	A
TOTAL NUMBER OF CREDITS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES:			

II. CONTENT COMPETENCIES

Social sciences courses also need to cover certain content areas in the field. Courses must cover the topics listed in the table below. It may be possible that some courses on an applicant's transcript cover more than one topic, for example a research course in geography may be used to satisfy both content requirements.

REQUIRED CONTENT COMPETENCY	CODE AND TITLE OF COURSE(S) SATISFYING COMPETENCY
US HISTORY	
HISTORY OF: AFRICA, ASIA, LATIN AMERICA, MIDDLE EAST, OR SOUTH AMERICA	
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS	
ECONOMICS	
SOCIOLOGY OR ANTHROPOLOGY	

GEOGRAPHY	
PSYCHOLOGY	
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COURSE	

If any competencies, total credits needed, or the GPA minimum are deficient, applicants are encouraged to take college level courses to start satisfying these requirements to help strengthen their application.

III. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The PA Department of Education also allows KU to consider professional experience (such as work in industry or in schools) as an aspect of an applicant's content preparation to offset requirements listed above. If an applicant would like us to consider this in their application, they can submit a few paragraphs in the box below that describe 1) the nature of the professional experience and how it relates to the social sciences and 2) the total years worked in the profession.