

Social Science

at Benedictine University

Why study social science at Benedictine?

The Social Science major for teachers is an interdisciplinary major drawing on the resources of several departments to prepare students to teach social science subjects in high school. The subjects available include History, Economics, Political Science and Sociology. This variety allows students to shape their own individual course of study in consultation with an advisor. The program's flexibility allows students to meet the state's teaching requirements in other subjects (Geography and Anthropology) by taking only a few additional courses. These additional options are open to students even after graduation.

What careers are available with a Social Science degree?

This program is primarily directed at students desiring to teach high school social studies since it provides a broad introduction to the social sciences with opportunities for some in-depth study. It is also a sound major for students seeking a reasonably comprehensive program of study, even if they decide not to become teachers. It prepares students for careers in law, foreign service, local or state government positions, social work or business.

How does the program work?

Students who wish to teach high school in the subjects of history, political science/civics, economics and sociology should major in Social Science. This major requires that students take 24 hours in History and be qualified to teach both U.S. and world history courses. Students will also take nine hours from Political Science and nine hours from either Economics or Sociology, which will qualify them to teach in these areas. The attached model assumes that the two nine-hour areas are in Political Science and Sociology.

"Benedictine University offers cutting edge educational classes that challenge future teachers to implement new ideas while retaining the best of what works in the classroom. While it is hard work, I love teaching, especially interacting with students, learning new information and organizing materials for class. Teaching social studies today requires innovation, creativity and a sense of commitment to students."

Tracey Cook, C99, Teacher, Neuqua Valley High School

Recommended Program

Bachelor of Arts in Social Science with Teaching Certificate

Advisor: Susan Mikula, Ph.D.

FRESHMAN

Writing Colloquium	3
Fine Art/Music core elective	3
Mathematics (S105, S108 or S110)	3
American History To 1865	3
Literature core elective	3
	15

Research Writing	3
American History Since 1865	3
Speech Communication	3
Introduction to Sociology	3
Wellness	2
Biology	3
	17

JUNIOR

Education elective*	3
300-level U.S. History course	3
Geography and Cartography	3
Cultural Heritage (HIST 240)	3
Religious Studies core elective	3
Professional Seminar	1
	16

Survey of the Exceptional Child*	3
200-level World History course	3
State and Local Government	3
Anthropology 200	3
Methods and Principles of Middle School*	3
Natural Science core elective	3
	18

SOPHOMORE

Chemistry: An Experimental Science	3
Historiography	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 220)	3
Global Affairs	3
Educational Psychology	3
	15

Pre-clinical experience*	1
History and Philosophy of Education*	3
Technology for Teachers*	2
Non-Western History	3
American Government	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 230)	3
	15

SENIOR

Cultural Heritage (HUMN 250)	3
Philosophy core elective	3
Measurement and Evaluation*	3
Methods of Teaching Social Science*	3
Economics core elective	3
	15

Student Teaching*	12
Major Research Paper	3
	15

**Students who decide not to continue toward a teaching certificate may replace these education courses with additional electives, perhaps leading to a minor.*

Several requirements on this major are dictated by the state of Illinois. Changes may occur in certification requirements, therefore requiring different courses than those listed.