



SHEPHERD
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION SPECIALIZATION HANDBOOK

FOR SPECIALIZATIONS LEADING TO
WEST VIRGINIA CERTIFICATION
Teaching Field Grades 5-Adult & Teaching Endorsement Grades 5-9

Contact:
Dr. Jason Allen
Social Studies Specialization Coordinator
School of Education / KN 114C
jallen@shepherd.edu
304-876-5778

Five Core Competencies for Social Studies Teacher Education

Standard 1. Content Knowledge

Candidates demonstrate knowledge of social studies disciplines. Candidates are knowledgeable of disciplinary concepts, facts, and tools; structures of inquiry; and forms of representation.

Standard 2. Application of Content Through Planning

Candidates plan learning sequences that leverage social studies knowledge and literacies, technology, and theory and research to support the civic competence of learners.

Standard 3. Design and Implementation of Instruction and Assessment

Candidates design and implement instruction and authentic assessments, informed by data literacy and learner self-assessment, that promote civic competence.

Standard 4. Social Studies Learners and Learning

Candidates use knowledge of learners to plan and implement relevant and responsive pedagogy, create collaborative and interdisciplinary learning environments, and prepare learners to be informed advocates for an inclusive and equitable society.

Standard 5. Professional Responsibility and Informed Action

Candidates reflect and expand upon their social studies knowledge, inquiry skills, and civic dispositions to advance social justice and promote human rights through informed action in schools and/or communities.

For policies and procedures related to all teacher candidates within the EPP at Shepherd, review the [EPP Student Handbook](#) and/or the [Practicum Manual](#) and/or [School of Education website](#). For more specific information regarding your program and its requirements, contact your advisor/specialization coordinator.

Social Studies Grades 5-12 (YRL Residency) Four-Year Course Progression – Fall 2025 Catalog

FALL				SPRING			
Sub./Course No.	Tier	First Year Title	Credit	Sub./Course No.	Tier	First Year Title	Credit
Core Curriculum	1	ENGL 101	3	Core Curriculum	1	ENGL 102	3
Core Curriculum	1	History-100 level	3	EDUC 150*	1	Seminar in Education (FYEX)	1
Math	1	Math (MA)	3	GEOG 105		World Cultural Geography (SO-GL)	3
Core Curriculum	2	Choose AR with advisor	3	COMM 202	2	Fundamentals of Speech (HM-GL) (Req.)	3
Core Curriculum	2	Choose Wellness with adv	3	Core Curriculum	2	PSCI 101 (SO-CK) (Req.)	3
				PSYC 101	2	Introduction to Psychology	3
		TOTAL	15	Take Praxis I CASE (See below.)*			TOTAL
							16

FALL				SPRING			
Sub./Course No.	Tier	Second Year Title	Credit	Sub./Course No.	Tier	Second Year Title	Credit
Core Curriculum	1	Choose Science (LS)	4	Core Curriculum	1	Choose Science (LS)	4
Core Curriculum	2	Choose HM w/advisor	3	EDUC 360*	2	Survey of Exceptional Children (SO-MD)	3
EDUC 200*	2	Foundations of Education (SO-MD)	3	ECON 206		Principles of Microeconomics	3
ECON 205	2	Principles of Macroeconomics (Req.)	3	HIST 201/202/203		History of the United States	3
HIST 201/202/203		History of the United States	3	GEOG 3XX		GEOG Elective (Choose w/ ADV)	3
Take Praxis I CASE (See below.)*			TOTAL	Take Praxis I CASE (See below.)*			TOTAL
			16				16

FALL				JUNCTURE 1 / ADMISSION TO EPP REQUIRED TO PROCEED	SPRING			
Sub./Course No.	Tier	Third Year Title	Credit		Sub./Course No.	Tier	Third Year Title	Credit
EDUC 320*		Social / Psychological Conditions of Learning	3		EDUC 370		Creating Learning Environments	4
HIST 309		West VA & the Appalachian Region	3		EDUC 380		Innovative Technology	3
HIST 350		Intro. to Historical Studies	3		PSCI 3XX		PSCI Elective (Choose w/ ADV)	3
SOC 205		Social Problems	3		HIST 3XX or 4XX		European / Western History	3
Social Science Elective		ANTH 315 / 390 or PSYC 305 or SOC 403 (See Adv)	3		HIST 3XX or 4XX		World History Elective	3
Elective		See Advisor	2					
APPLY FOR JUNCTURE 1			TOTAL	Take Praxis II (REQUIRED)			TOTAL	16
			17					

FALL				SPRING			
Sub./Course No.	Tier	Fourth Year Title	Credit	Sub./Course No.	Tier	Fourth Year Title	Credit
EDUC 443		Literacy in the Content Areas	3	EDUC 463	2	Residency II, Grades 5- Adult (CP)	9
EDUC 422		Special Methods – SS	3	EDUC 461**	3	Clinical Experience Seminar (WM)	3
EDUC 400		Inclusion in the Regular Classroom	3				
HIST 3XX or 4XX		US History Elective	3			TOTAL	12
EDUC 375		Secondary Educ Residency I	0				
APPLY FOR JUNCTURE 2			TOTAL			DEGREE TOTAL	120
			12				

****EDUC 461 is designated as the Writing in the Major [WM] course for Education.**

Social Studies Education Comprehensive, B.A.

Shepherd University EPP Admissions Requirements

Juncture I (Admission to EPP) Requirements:

- Must have an overall GPA of 2.75 and a 2.75 Shepherd GPA (incl. Transfer Students).
- Must have a C or better in all Specialty and Professional Courses (speak with your advisor).
- *Must have passed the PRAXIS I CORE/CASE or provided proof of exemption as determined/required by the State of West Virginia. *Please speak with your advisor regarding the exemptions/requirements/deadlines regarding the PRAXIS I CORE/CASE exams.*
- Contact your advisor with any questions about any additional course work or requirements that must be completed before applying for Juncture I.

Juncture II (Admission to ST / Residency II) Requirements:

- Must have an overall GPA of 2.75 and a 2.75 Shepherd GPA (incl. Transfer Students).
- Must have a C or better in all Specialty and Professional Courses (speak with your advisor).
- Must have an overall 2.75 GPA in Specialty and Professional Courses (speak with your advisor).
- You must pass all PRAXIS II Content exams before you will be permitted to student teach or enter Residency II. *Please speak with your advisor regarding the deadlines for passing the PRAXIS II Content exams.*

Secondary Education: Social Studies Specialization

Required Courses from the Core

- **PSCI 101 - American Federal Government**
(3 cr) A study of the functions and administration of the government of the United States.
- **ECON 205 - Principles of Macroeconomics**
(3 cr) Introduction to fundamental economic concepts including production possibilities and economic growth, market supply and demand analysis, money, banking, and government fiscal and monetary policies. Emphasis is placed upon fluctuations in national income, employment, and the price level. Prerequisites: Qualifying Mathematics placement scores of ACT 19 or SAT 460 (old exam) or 500 (new exam); or MATH 101 or higher.

SOCIAL STUDIES CONTENT [42 CREDITS]:

- **ECON 206 - Principles of Microeconomics**
(3 cr) Continuation of ECON 205. Topics include extension of supply and demand analysis, production costs and revenue analysis of firms under perfect and imperfect competition, resource markets, and international trade and finance. Selected economic problems. Prerequisites: ECON 205.
- **GEOG 105 - World Cultural Geography**
(3 cr) A survey of human populations in their natural environments by the study of physical and cultural geographic components such as climate, landforms, culture, migration, settlement, economic activities, and global interconnectedness. Emphasis on geographic skills development through the use of maps, models, and satellite imagery.
- **HIST 309 - West Virginia and the Appalachian Region**
(3 cr) This course explores the development of the Appalachian region with an emphasis on the history of western Virginia and the state of West Virginia. It will place the region within its national and global contexts and will examine the geographical, political, economic, and cultural aspects of the area's history. Specific topics covered in the course include early European settlement, sectional conflict and the West Virginia statehood movement, cultural diversity, and the development of the extraction economy. Throughout the semester students will analyze the impact of national events on the mountain south and will develop an understanding of the current problems facing the region through a detailed study of its past.
- **HIST 350 - Introduction to Historical Studies**
(3 cr) An introduction to historiography and to historical methodology. This is a writing-intensive course designed to prepare students to write cogent, appropriately documented papers in the major. Prerequisites: Restricted to students majoring in history [or SSed].
- **PSYC 101 - Introduction to Psychology**
(3 cr) A survey course introducing the core areas of psychology, including biopsychology, learning and memory, intelligence, developmental psychology, stress and health, personality, abnormal psychology, psychotherapy, and social psychology.
- **SOCI 205 - Social Problems**
(3 cr) In large, complex, heterogeneous, and rapidly changing societies, social problems are inevitable consequences. The problems may vary in their nature, extent, and volume but the negative impact has equally significant implications for all aspects and members of the society. Although these problems are an integral aspect of society, their impact needs to be and can be controlled within a normal range. In order to ameliorate the negative consequences of these social conditions so that they do not reach a pathological state, it is imperative to understand their source, nature, and effects. This course examines these aspects of various social problems and the suggested corrective strategies to deal with them.

CHOOSE TWO (2) OF THE FOLLOWING:

- **HIST 201 - History of the US to 1865 (3 cr)** - Survey course examines the basic political, economic, and social forces in the formation and development of the American nation from the Colonial Period through the Civil War.
- **HIST 202 - History of the US, 1865 to Present (3 cr)** - Course surveys the basic political, economic, and social forces in the rise of the republic from sectional conflict to a major international role. Moving from Reconstruction to the recent decade, it covers the evolution of the nation from an agrarian to an industrial society.
- **HIST 203 - US and the World (3 cr)** - This is a survey of American History from the 1600s to the recent past that emphasizes how the history of the people living in central North America interacted with people throughout the world. Putting American history in a global context includes looking at "domestic" events (such as the American Revolution, Reconstruction, Indian Removal, or "the Sixties") anew, reexamining larger forces as influencing our history (such as the industrial revolution, European imperialism, the Enlightenment), as well as America's direct interactions with other people across the globe (such as the World Wars, immigration policy, economic globalization, 9/11). This view of American history from a global context will help students understand how their history fits in with others across the world.

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: US HISTORY (3 cr)

- HIST 301 - American Colonial History
- HIST 302 - Era of the American Revolution
- HIST 303 - The Jacksonian Era (1816 - 1850)
- HIST 304 - American Civil War and Reconstruction Era
- HIST 305 - History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley
- HIST 308 - The Old South
- HIST 310 - Rise of Industrial Democracy
- HIST 312 - New Deal to Great Society
- HIST 314 - Recent US History Since 1869
- HIST 315 - US Women to 1869
- HIST 316 - US Women Since 1869
- HIST 351 - African American History to 1865
- HIST 352 - African American History Since 1865
- HIST 378 - American Military History
- HIST 425 - Seminar in US History
- HIST 430 - Civil War Seminar

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: EUROPEAN/WESTERN HISTORY (3 cr)

- HIST 327 - Europe 400-1000
- HIST 328 - Europe 100-1450
- HIST 329 - The Renaissance and Reformation
- HIST 338 - European Women to 1500
- HIST 339 - European Women Since 1500
- HIST 342 - Twentieth Century Germany
- HIST 360 - Evolution of European Government
- HIST 375 - First World War
- HIST 404 - The Contemporary World Since 1929
- HIST 407 - History of England to 1603
- HIST 408 - History of England Since 1603
- HIST 410 - Russia to 1855
- HIST 412 - History of Russia Since 1855
- HIST 416 - Italian City States
- HIST 427 - Seminar in European History
- HIST 440 - Ideas in the Modern West

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: WORLD HISTORY (3 cr)

- HIST 320 – Sub-Saharan Africa
- HIST 331 – Ancient Civilization
- HIST 340 – Modern Asian History through Literature
- HIST 419 – East Asia to 1800
- HIST 420 – Modern East Asia Since 1800
- HIST 421 – History of Modern Japan
- HIST 428 – Seminar in Asian History
- HIST 445 – Latin America to 1840
- HIST 446 – Latin America Since 1820

CHOOSE ONE: GEOGRAPHY ELECTIVE – 300+ (3 cr)

CHOOSE ONE: POLITICAL SCIENCE ELECTIVE – 300+ (3 cr)

CHOOSE ONE: ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE (3 cr)

- ANTH 315 - Cultural Anthropology
- ANTH 390 - Native American Ethnography
- PSYC 305 - Social Psychology
- SOCI 403 - Race and Ethnic Relations

TEACHING ENDORSEMENT IN SOCIAL STUDIES / Grades 5-9

The social studies 5-9 program, which offers a subject specialization for certification, is intended primarily for students preparing to teach in middle schools. [This endorsement is offered only as an add-on to the K-6 elementary program or to any of the secondary programs.](#)

Curriculum for Teaching Field Endorsement in Social Studies Grades 5-9

Specific general studies requirements, 6 Hours:

- [PSCI 101 - American Federal Government](#) (3 cr)
- [ECON 123 - Contemporary Economics](#) (3 cr)

Required courses, 24 Hours:

- [HIST 201 - History of the United States to 1865](#) (3 cr)
- [HIST 202 - History of the United States, 1865 to Present](#) (3 cr)
- [HIST 309 - West Virginia and the Appalachian Region](#) (3 cr)
- [HIST 314 - Recent United States History since 1972](#) (3 cr) OR
- [HIST 315 - United States Women to 1869](#) (3 cr) OR
- [HIST 320 - Sub-Saharan Africa](#) (3 cr) OR
- [HIST 338 - European Women to 1500](#) (3 cr) OR
- [HIST 339 - European Women Since 1500](#) (3 cr) OR
- [HIST 419 - East Asia to 1800](#) (3 cr) OR
- [HIST 420 - Modern East Asia Since 1800](#) (3 cr) OR
- [HIST 421 - History of Modern Japan](#) (3 cr)
- [GEOG 105 - World Cultural Geography](#) (3 cr)
- [GEOG 3XX – Upper-Division Geography Elective](#) (3 cr)
- [PSCI 3XX – Upper-Division Political Science Elective](#) (3 cr)

Note(s):

See professional education course listings under Education: Professional Studies Core for Endorsement in Middle School Education (40-48 hours required). Special Methods of Teaching Social Studies is [EDUC 422](#).

Visit the following links for detailed description of these programs and course choices:

[Social Studies Teaching Field Grades 5-Adult, B.A.](#)

[Social Studies Teaching Field Endorsement Grades 5-9](#)