

Social Science

I. Knowing the Content

The professional education program provides evidence that Social Science certification candidates complete a program of studies with the same academic content area courses and required electives as a major in a bachelor's degree in the areas of anthropology, psychology and sociology. The program requires the candidates to demonstrate knowledge of and competence in teaching the Social Sciences to students in grades 7-12 including:

I.A. Anthropology including:

- the concept of culture,
- origins of human culture and cultural change,
- kinship, rituals and social organization,
- cultural and social organization

I.B. Psychology including:

- growth and human development,
- personality, group identification and collective behavior,
- human adjustment, prejudices, tolerance and other coping behaviors,
- cognition as it relates to education

I.C. Sociology including:

- social organization, movements, change and the socialization process,
- demography, immigration trends and local and national responses,
- role of race, gender, and ethnicity in individual and national identity,
- cultural unity and diversity in a pluralistic society,
- changing role of the family in society

II. Performances

The professional education program provides evidence of the candidates participation in sequential and developmental field experiences and student teaching, under the supervision of college personnel and cooperating teachers who are well trained, have interpersonal skills and demonstrated competence in teaching. The program also provides evidence that the criteria and competencies for exit from the Social Sciences certification program are assessed in coursework, field experiences and student teaching and require the candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and competence in fostering student learning through:

II.A. Managing the instructional environment including:

- creating a positive climate that promotes learning,
- establishing and maintaining rapport with students,
- communicating challenging learning expectations to each student,
- establishing and maintaining consistent standards of classroom behavior,
- making the physical environment safe

II.B. Planning of instruction in collaboration with other professionals at a variety of instructional levels based upon:

- general curriculum,
- Pennsylvania Academic Standards,
- social and behavioral science curriculum areas identified by the local community

II.C. Adapting and implementing effective instructional strategies, curriculum resources and technologies in collaboration with other professionals

II.D. Selecting, analyzing and modifying instructional materials and communication modes in order to address the needs and instructional levels of a diverse student population

II.E. Collaborating with school colleagues, organizations and other community agencies to improve student learning

II.F. Monitoring students' understanding of content, adjusting instruction and providing feedback to students, parents and other professionals

III. Professionalism

The professional education program provides evidence that Social Sciences certification candidates demonstrate knowledge and competencies that foster professionalism in school and community settings including:

III.A. History, philosophy and current trends in Social Science education

III.B. Professional organizations and literature

III.C. Integrity and ethical behavior, professional conduct as stated in Pennsylvania's Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators; and local, state, and federal laws and regulations

III.D. Communicating effectively with the school community to improve school climate and facilitate student learning