Social Studies Elementary Education

Official Program Checksheet

Why Choose Social Studies Elementary Education

Social Studies Elementary Education involves the study of history, geography, political science and economics. In today’s society, social studies elementary education is especially relevant. Trained social studies elementary educators are able to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world (NCSS, 1994.) These educators are well rounded in the various aspects of Social Studies and will play an important role in helping future generations understand the world around them. These educators can assist students in gaining knowledge in anthropology, archaeology, economics, geography, history, law, philosophy, religion, and sociology and to make global connections.

Career Opportunities

Current employment opportunities in the field of social studies education is based on two key factors. Both on a national and state level there is a common theme of the extreme need for teachers and adequately prepared elementary social studies teachers. Concerns at the beginning of the decade focused primarily on the issue of the retirement for a significant number of educators, in the Michigan Education Report of 2001. Teacher shortages in Michigan are predicted to be most severe at the secondary education level. The issue of teacher shortage due to retirement has been redress a major issue - teachers who teach in content areas where they have little or no formal training. This issue is especially relevant to the field of social studies. With the cuts in funding for education, school districts are relying on hiring teachers who can teach in multiple areas. Social study teachers have broad-based education in multiple content areas which makes them highly marketable in the current economic times.

Admission Requirements

High school students and transfer students with 29 credit hours or less must possess a high school grade point average of 2.5 and a 17 ACT or 900 SAT. Transfer students with 30 credit hours or more must possess a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Students transferring into the program with completed majors or minors must have the appropriate GPA as established by each department. Consult individual program description for other admission requirements.

General Education Requirements

All University General Education requirements can be found here: http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/academics/general-education/requirements/BA-BS.htm

Please consult this link for a complete listing of General Education
Electives:  http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/academics/general-education/courses/index.htm

Consult the official checksheet or program advisor for program specific General Education requirements.

Teacher Certification Requirements

As required by the State of Michigan, to receive teacher certification, all teacher candidates must: 1. pass the Professional Readiness Exam; 2. pass the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification content area tests in their major and minor; and 3. have a 2.50 minimum GPA to receive teacher certification in Michigan. These state requirements are in addition to the FSU graduation requirements of your individual program.

Graduation Requirements

The social studies education program leads to a Bachelor of Science degree through the School of Education, College of Education and Human Services. Graduates must complete all of Ferris State University's general education, social studies and education requirements. Professional education requirements include a semester of directed student teaching. Consult individual program description for other graduation requirements.

More Information

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