Teaching and Learning, MA

Social Studies Education

The Master of Arts in teaching and learning with a social studies education subprogram requires 38 s.h. of graduate credit with a program grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.00 for graduation.

The program provides an opportunity for interdisciplinary work in education, history, social science, or related areas for classroom teachers, high school department chairs, supervisors, and others interested in advancing their competence in history and the social sciences and greater proficiency in teaching and supervision.

Requirements

Students create a course of study in consultation with their advisor that aligns with their interests related to social studies education and/or their profession. Students distribute the program’s required 38 s.h. among three concentration fields in history or a social science (or related area), social studies and global education, and general education. At least 9 s.h. must be earned in history or a social science and in general education courses numbered 3000 or above. Students also must earn at least 9 s.h. in courses numbered 6000 or above offered through the social studies education program or a related area of education.

Thesis Option

Students who choose the thesis option complete a research or investigative problem. If the thesis is research or investigation in history, social science, or a related area, the thesis director is a member of the appropriate department. If the thesis is an investigative problem in social studies education, the thesis director is a College of Education faculty member.

Comprehensive Examination

Candidates select one faculty member from each concentration area to serve as a committee member responsible for creating and reviewing a question for the written exam. Committee members are selected in consultation with a candidate’s advisor. The required comprehensive examination consists of three two-hour written exams, one on each of the three concentration fields.

Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College. They should have a bachelor's degree in education, history, or one of the social sciences from an accredited institution; a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00; a GPA of at least 3.00 in history and/or social science courses; and two letters of recommendation. Evidence of writing ability in a completed major paper or essay also is required. Typically, applicants are expected to hold a secondary teaching license/certificate.