

Prep Resources: How to Improve Prep in this Area

Standard 8: Secondary Content in the Social Sciences

KEY STANDARD — Undergraduate Secondary Programs

Follow these steps to improve your preparation program and your score:

- ☐ **1st:** For general social science certification routes, which allow instruction in all of the social sciences (history, political science, economics, etc.), require teacher candidates to complete 15 semester credit hours (SCHs) of content coursework in history and 15 SCHs in political science, economics, geography or psychology or complete a total of 50 SCHs across all of the social sciences that includes 15 SCHs of history coursework.
- ☐ **2nd:** For single-subject certification routes, require 30 SCHs of content coursework in the area of certification.

Common Reasons programs do not meet the Secondary Content in the Social Sciences Standard

- 1. Programs do not appropriately limit the social sciences subjects that can serve as academic minors.** When anthropology or sociology are treated as concentrations equivalent to economics, geography, history, political science, and psychology for a general social science certification, programs are not preparing candidates for the teaching assignments they are most likely to receive.

Solution

Require teacher candidates to take at least 15 SCHs of coursework in history and one of the other core social sciences (economics, geography, political science or psychology) covered by the certification.

- 2. Single-subject majors do not provide the breadth of content needed for a general social science certification.** In states where general social science certification is the only option, some programs do not offer multiple-subject majors that ensure teacher candidates are fully prepared for their possible teaching assignments. Instead, the IHE allows the teacher candidate to complete any major covered under the certification (i.e. major in geography to teach all of the social sciences instead of majoring in a specifically designed social sciences route), which fails to provide exposure to all or even most subjects they are likely to teach.

Solution

Require teacher candidates to take minors in core subject areas covered by the certification.

Programs in states with a general social sciences certification can also satisfy the standard with the requirement of at least 30 semester credit hours of history coursework, the subject teacher candidates are most likely to be assigned to teach under the certification.

How many programs offer a general social sciences certification but fail to require at least 15 SCHs in history?

Coming fall 2016

Leaderboard

A few programs that meet this standard:

Coming fall 2016

Follow the links below to learn more

Exemplary Programs & Findings

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Methodology & Rationale

COMING SOON

Resources

nctq.org/teacherPrep/review2014/resources/index.jsp