

**Program Review Summary**  
**Program Reviewed: B.A. Social Science Teaching**  
**Date: April 6, 2004**

1.  
Curriculum

*Curriculum Revision:* The curriculum leading to secondary certification in social science was revised in 2000-2001 as part of a reform initiative by the Illinois State Board of Education which required that all Illinois teacher education programs align with the Illinois Content Area Standards. Members of the Social Science Studies Committee reviewed the courses offered by their respective departments and identified those that related most closely to the content of the state standards. These courses were then incorporated into the new standards-aligned major. This restructuring effort was implemented in the fall of 2002—a full year ahead of the state mandate.

The program was revised again (effective Fall, 2003) to include a laboratory hour in the Social Science 3400 course in order to address some matters that are measured on the Assessment of Professional Teaching Test, primarily special education, content area reading and instructional technology.

*Curricular Scope:* The scope of the program's new curriculum is extensive due to the very large number of standards specified in the Illinois Content Standards. During the curriculum revision process, the Social Science Studies Committee worked carefully to construct course paths that provided, through a reasonable number of semester hours for each discipline, a sequenced order of course work necessary for our students to meet the standards.

Although the major's curriculum is quite broad it must be recognized that the requirements of the state's standards are equally broad. There are 29 Core Social Science Standards, many of which have multiple Performance Indicators. Core Standard 29 alone, for example, has 18 Performance Indicators. Beyond this there are 17 Geography Standards, 4 Economics Standards, 8 Political Science Standards, 7 Psychology Standards, and 6 Sociology/Anthropology Standards, for a total of 79 standards, many of which have multiple Performance Indicators.

*Curriculum Review:* Reducing the number of required semester hours without weakening content preparation is thus a daunting task. Yet from the outset, the committee considered the possibility of program review that could streamline the certification process. Such review will include a close examination of required courses and their alignment with the standards, and an examination of the possibility of designing cross-curricular courses which meet standards in more than one discipline thereby enabling students in some cases to take one course instead of two. This process is now in its first stages. However it is the judgment of the Social Science Studies Committee that the program must not reduce hours if such action appears to jeopardize content area preparation by our majors.

1. Testing Data

*Previous Test Results:* The most recent Title II data collected by the University

show that the pass rate for Eastern social science majors for the past three years is 95 percent, equal to the statewide pass rate.

*Standards Aligned Test Results:* The state of Illinois will implement in July of 2004 a new, standards aligned certification test. Results from this test can be one measure of judging the quality of the newly redesigned program. However, no testing data are yet available for those who are pursuing the program under the new standards aligned curriculum.

2.

### Enrollment

Trend lines for the restructured major indicate strong enrollment. The *Students by Major Report* for Spring, 2004 shows that the Social Science Studies Program has a total of 93 majors. Of these 52 students are pursuing the restructured program and 41 are in the old program. Trend lines reflecting the distribution across the various designations of the new program are also, for the most part, positive and are as follows:

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<u>Designation</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>
Geography.....	5
Political Science.....	11
Psychology.....	15
Sociology/Anthropology.....	<u>21</u>
Total.....	52

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### Program Excellence

The Social Science Studies major is one of the few teacher preparation programs in the state of Illinois that offers multiple, discipline based designated areas of study. The program's curriculum is highly interdisciplinary with a well defined scope and sequence of study. It provides its students with a substantial knowledge base in economics, geography, history, political science, psychology and sociology/anthropology. Unlike programs offering only one designation, the program here provides a much wider range of choice for students seeking social science certification.

In addition the program has been designed so that the course work is closely coupled to the various standards mandated by the state of Illinois, including the Illinois Content Area Standards for Educators, the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards, the Core Standards for All Teachers in Technology and the Core Standards for All Teachers in Language Arts. The course instructors also recently received a PT3 Course Redesign Grant that will be used to help achieve these standards. In these ways we hope to make the program continue to closely cohere with contemporary understandings of best practices in teacher preparation.