What is Social Science?

The Social Sciences at SDSU consist of Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, and Sociology, with additional courses from related disciplines.

Social Science research attempts to understand how society works through behavioral or social explanations.

As a Social Science student, you will learn to analyze and critically examine social, political, cultural, and economic phenomena by studying human behavior and social processes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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The General Social Science Major


The major provides students with a broad understanding of social science and an appreciation of the interrelatedness of its disciplines.

This program is especially appropriate for students who desire a liberal arts education and seek to develop analytical, critical thinking, and writing skills that can be applied to a wide range of occupations and professions.

In addition to core courses in social science methods and theory, students choose two “clusters,” which are interrelated courses on a similar topic but from different disciplines (for example, courses on violence in society from political, anthropological, and sociological perspectives).

The major’s flexibility allows students to take courses that are relevant to their career or intellectual interests.

The Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP)

The Social Science Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) is a new 4 year combined bachelor and credential option for students who plan to teach history, government, geography, or economics in middle or high school. Ordinarily, it takes 5 years to obtain a credential in California (4 years as an undergraduate and a one year credential program).

How the program works:
- Students enroll as undergraduates.
- Students need to complete their major coursework with a minimum GPA of 2.67.
- Students complete their student teaching and credential coursework during their senior year.
- The total number of units required for the major (both undergraduate degree and credential) is 135.
- Completing this degree in four years often requires taking some courses over summer.

How to apply:
- High school seniors and community college students can choose ITEP as their major through the regular SDSU admissions process.
- Current SDSU students should contact the social science advisor to change their major.

Students who complete the ITEP program will earn both a bachelor’s degree and a teaching credential, and can begin teaching in California middle and high schools immediately upon graduation.

The Social Science Major in preparation for the Single Subject Teaching Credential

The Social Science major in preparation for the single subject teaching credential is designed for students who want to pursue a career teaching History, Geography, Government, and Economics in middle and high schools.

Students take core courses in each of the four areas to provide a breadth of knowledge as well as electives to build depth.

The major also includes the required early field experience necessary to enter SDSU’s credential program.

Students who choose this major will acquire the content knowledge necessary to enter a credential program and teach in California middle and high schools.