

Social Studies Endorsement Specs

Competencies & Requirements

Purpose

This document details the endorsement types, the specific endorsements in social studies, the pathways for fulfilling the endorsement requirements, and the competencies required for the endorsements.

Prerequisites

To be eligible for a social studies endorsement, candidates must possess a Utah Educator License with an Elementary, Secondary, or Special Education area of concentration.

Endorsement Types

There are two types of endorsements, an **Associate Endorsement**, and a **Professional Endorsement**.

If a candidate has not completed all requirements of the endorsement but has completed at least one third of the required course work, has a major in the area, or has successfully passed a corresponding PRAXIS assessment, they are eligible for an Associate Endorsement.

The Associate Endorsement allows the candidate to teach the social studies courses attached to the specific endorsement, with three years to complete all the requirements and earn a Professional Endorsement.

Endorsements

There are nine social studies endorsements:

- [Anthropology](#)
- [Economics](#)
- [Geography](#)
- [History](#)
- [Political Science](#)
- [Psychology](#)
- [Social Studies Composite](#)
- [Sociology](#)
- [Utah Studies](#)

Pathways to Meet Requirements

There are multiple pathways to meet endorsement requirements, including:

- Post-secondary coursework at an institution of higher education. The traditional route for an endorsement in social studies has been post-secondary course work. Courses must be equivalent in course content to the course names and descriptors, although course numbers may vary over time and location. The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) offers [low cost online endorsement courses](#) to support educators in efforts to earn endorsements. Requirements may also be met from pre-approved professional learning opportunities that offer higher education credit.

- The successful passing of PRAXIS assessments can meet certain requirements, as outlined on endorsement forms. For the current PRAXIS tests used in Utah and the passing score, visit [ETS.org](https://www.ets.org).
- Completion of microcredentials stacks, when applicable, as outlined on the endorsement form. The microcredentialing process allows a candidate the option of verifying competency by a means other than traditional higher education course work. Microcredential stacks are not mini courses, but opportunities for a candidate to provide evidence that they possess a mastery of the competencies required for a particular requirement. They are intended to be equivalent to the academic work products one would create in a higher education course.
- Completion of National Board Certification, when applicable.

Endorsements And Requirements

Social studies is a multi-disciplinary teaching area. There are stand-alone endorsements in history, geography, Utah studies, political science, economics, sociology, anthropology, and psychology. In addition, there is a social studies composite endorsement which allows teachers to teach any course in the social studies disciplines.

The social studies composite endorsement requires the completion of the most multi-disciplinary work. This is necessary because the composite is an endorsement that allows educators to teach any social studies course.

The composite endorsement requirements can be met by taking course work but can also be met with a combination of other approaches, depending on the requirement. For example, the U.S. History 1 requirement can be met by course work or by taking the history PRAXIS test.

There is no one PRAXIS test that fulfills all the composite requirements, however. The social studies composite PRAXIS 5081 was previously required in *addition* to completing course work. That requirement has been deleted. While the PRAXIS 5081 does qualify an applicant for an associate endorsement, it does not fulfill any specific course requirements. If a candidate elects to take a PRAXIS test to meet course requirements there are subject-specific tests that are better options.

Here are the requirements for social studies endorsements:

ANTHROPOLOGY ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

For a **Professional Endorsement**, complete all five requirement areas. For an **Associate Endorsement**, earn a bachelor's degree or higher in the endorsement area, pass the appropriate Praxis test, or complete at least two of the requirements.

1. **Cultural Anthropology:** A familiarity with the study of how people share common **cultural** systems, and the resultant organization of the physical and social world around them.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Anthropology 1010 or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

2. **Archaeology:** A familiarity with the study of the ancient and recent human past through material remains.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Anthropology 2023 or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

3. **Biological Anthropology:** A familiarity with the study of human biological variation and evolution.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Anthropology 1020 or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

4. **World Prehistory:** A familiarity with the study of human prehistory, drawing upon archaeological, biological, and other anthropological lenses.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course Anthropology 1030 or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

5. **Social Studies Methods:** The methods course combines theory with practice, providing opportunities to develop effective teaching strategies, including integrated approaches to teaching and learning with an emphasis on the central role of inquiry.

Complete one of these options:

- Teaching Methods in Social Studies university course
- Microcredential stack (under development)
- National Board Certification in social studies area

ECONOMICS ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

For a **Professional Endorsement**, complete all five requirements. For an **Associate Endorsement**, earn a bachelor's degree or higher in the endorsement area, pass the appropriate Praxis test, or complete at least two of the requirements.

1. **Microeconomics:** A familiarity with the study of individuals, households and firms' behavior in economic decision making and the allocation of resources.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Economics 2010 or equivalent
- Praxis 5911

2. **Macroeconomics:** A familiarity with the study of the behavior of a national or regional economy.

Complete one of these options:



- University Course: Economics 2020 or equivalent
- Praxis 5911

3. **U.S. Economic History:** A familiarity with the academic study of past economic events, using historical methods, statistical methods, and the application of economic theory to understand the historical context in which major economic events take place.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Economics 1740 or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

4. **Economics as a Social Science:** A familiarity with the role economics can play in understanding social and political problems, such as the delivery of healthcare and education, fiscal policy and public debt, and vexing issues of poverty, inequality, and sustainability.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Economics 1010 or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

5. **Social Studies Methods:** The methods course combines theory with practice, providing opportunities to develop effective teaching strategies, including integrated approaches to teaching and learning with an emphasis on the central role of inquiry.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Social Studies Methods or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)
- National Board Certification in social studies area

GEOGRAPHY ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

For a **Professional Endorsement**, complete all four requirement areas. For an **Associate Endorsement**, earn a bachelor's degree or higher in the endorsement area, pass the appropriate Praxis test, or complete at least two of the requirements:

1. **Physical Geography:** The study of Earth's seasons, climate, atmosphere, soil, streams, landforms, and oceans. Familiarity with geographic information systems (GIS) and the uses of GIS as a tool for displaying and analyzing data related to positions on Earth's surface.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Geography 1000 or equivalent
- Geography Praxis 5921

2. **Human Geography:** The study of the distribution of networks of people and cultures on Earth's surface.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Geography 1400 or equivalent
- Geography Praxis 5921

3. **Utah Geography:** The study of significant aspects of the physical and human geography of Utah.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Utah Geography or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

4. **Social Studies Methods:** The methods course combines theory with practice, providing opportunities to develop effective teaching strategies, including integrated approaches to teaching and learning with an emphasis on the central role of inquiry.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Social Studies Methods or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)
- National Board Certification in social studies area

HISTORY ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

For a **Professional Endorsement**, complete all eight requirement areas. For an **Associate Endorsement**, earn a bachelor's degree or higher in the endorsement area, pass the appropriate Praxis test, or complete at least three of the requirements:

1. **U.S. History 1:** Significant events, individuals, and historical patterns from the pre-history of the North American continent to the U.S. Civil War/Reconstruction.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: History 2700 or equivalent
- History Content Knowledge Praxis 5941

2. **U.S. History 2:** Significant events, individuals, and historical patterns from Reconstruction in the U.S. to the present.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: History 2710 or equivalent
- History Content Knowledge Praxis 5941

3. **World History 1:** Significant events, individuals, and historical patterns in world history from pre-history to 1500 B.C.E.



Complete one of these options:

- University Course: History 1500 or equivalent
- History Content Knowledge Praxis 5941

4. **World History 2:** Significant events, individuals, and historical patterns in world history from 1500 B.C.E. to the present.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: History 1510 or equivalent
- History Content Knowledge Praxis 5941

5. **Utah History:** Significant events, individuals, and historical patterns in Utah from pre-history to the present.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Utah History or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

6. **Historiography:** A study of the importance of time in human experience, and facility with historical thinking concepts including establishing historical significance, using primary source evidence, identifying instances of continuity and change, analyzing cause and consequence, taking historical perspectives, making reasoned arguments, and explaining the ethical dimension of various historical interpretations.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Historiography or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

7. **History of Traditionally Underrepresented Communities:** Any in-depth study of the history of communities whose histories have been traditionally marginalized.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course
- Microcredential stack (under development)

8. **Social Studies Methods:** The methods course combines theory with practice, providing opportunities to develop effective teaching strategies, including integrated approaches to teaching and learning with an emphasis on the central role of inquiry.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Social Studies Methods or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)
- National Board Certification in social studies area

POLITICAL SCIENCE ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

For a **Professional Endorsement**, complete all five requirement areas. For an **Associate Endorsement**, earn a bachelor's degree or higher in the endorsement area, pass the appropriate Praxis test, or complete at least two of the requirements.

1. **American / U.S. National Government:** A familiarity with the major institutions and processes of American government and politics.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Political Science 1100 or equivalent
- Praxis 5941

2. **Introduction to International Relations:** A familiarity with the study of the relations of states with each other and with international organizations and certain subnational entities (e.g., bureaucracies, political parties, and interest groups).

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Political Science 2100 or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

3. **Introduction to Comparative Politics:** A familiarity with the empirical study of other countries, citizens, and different political units either in whole or in part, and with approaches taken to analyze the similarities and differences between those political units.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Political Science 2200 or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

4. **Introduction to Political Theory:** A familiarity with the study of political ideas and values, including fundamental notions of justice, power and democracy, and their use in describing, understanding, and assessing political practices and institutions.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Political Science 2300 or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

5. **Social Studies Methods:** The methods course combines theory with practice, providing opportunities to develop effective teaching strategies, including integrated approaches to teaching and learning with an emphasis on the central role of inquiry.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Social Studies Methods or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)
- National Board Certification in social studies area



PSYCHOLOGY ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

For a **Professional Endorsement**, complete all five requirement areas. For an **Associate Endorsement**, earn a bachelor's degree or higher in the endorsement area, pass the appropriate Praxis test, or complete at least two of the requirements.

1. **Introduction to Psychology:** An understanding of the basic foundations of psychology.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Psychology 1010 or equivalent
- Praxis 5391

2. **Sports Psychology or Positive Psychology:** A familiarity with the study of theory and applications in sports psychology, including enhancement of motivation and performance, stress, anxiety, aggression and time management or the study of human strengths, positive emotions, and well-being.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Psychology 2400, 4000 or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

3. **Education Psychology / Developmental Psychology:** An understanding of the major physical, cognitive and socio-emotional hallmarks of human development and a familiarity with the major developmental theories.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Psychology 2100 or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

4. **Psychological Research Methods:** A familiarity with research methods and research writing for psychological science, including understanding, analyzing, and evaluating existing research.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Psychology 3500 or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

5. **Social Studies Methods:** The methods course combines theory with practice, providing opportunities to develop effective teaching strategies, including integrated approaches to teaching and learning with an emphasis on the central role of inquiry.

Complete one of these options:

- Teaching Methods in Social Studies university course
- Microcredential stack (under development)
- National Board Certification in social studies area

SOCIAL STUDIES COMPOSITE ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

For a **Professional Endorsement**, complete each of the following 15 requirement areas. For an **Associate Endorsement**, earn a bachelor's degree or higher in the endorsement area, pass the appropriate Praxis test, or complete at least 6 of the following 15 requirement areas:

1. **U.S. History 1:** Significant events, individuals, and historical patterns from the pre-history of the North American continent to the U.S. Civil War/Reconstruction.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: History 2700 or equivalent
- History Content Knowledge Praxis 5941

2. **U.S. History 2:** Significant events, individuals, and historical patterns from Reconstruction in the U.S. to the present.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: History 2710 or equivalent
- History Content Knowledge Praxis 5941

3. **World History 1:** Significant events, individuals, and historical patterns in world history from pre-history to 1500 B.C.E.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: History 1510 or equivalent
- History Content Knowledge Praxis 5940

4. **World History 2:** Significant events, individuals, and historical patterns in world history from 1500 B.C.E. to the present.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: History 1510 or equivalent
- History Content Knowledge Praxis 5941

5. **Utah History:** Significant events, individuals, and historical patterns in Utah from pre-history to the present.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Utah History 1000 or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

6. **Physical Geography:** The study of Earth's seasons, climate, atmosphere, soil, streams, landforms, and oceans. Familiarity with geographic information systems (GIS) and the uses of GIS as a tool for displaying and analyzing data related to positions on Earth's surface.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Geography 1000 or equivalent
- Geography Praxis 5921

7. **Human Geography:** The study of the distribution of networks of people and cultures on Earth's surface.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Geography 1400 or equivalent
- Geography Praxis 5921

8. **American / U.S. National Government:** A familiarity with the major institutions and processes of American government and politics.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Poli Sci 1100 or equivalent
- Political Science Praxis 5931

9. **Introduction to Political Science, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, or International Relations**

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Poli Sci 1010, 2100, 2200, 2300, or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

10. **Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Economic History, Economics as a Social Science**

Complete two of these course options or the Praxis

- University Course #1: Econ 2010, 2020, 1740, 1010, or equivalent
- University Course #2: Econ 2010, 2020, 1740, 1010, or equivalent
- Praxis 5911

11. **Introduction to Psychology**

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Psych 1010 or equivalent
- Psychology Praxis 5391

12. **Sports Psychology, Positive Psychology, or Developmental Psychology**

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Psychology 2100, 2400, 4000, or equivalent
- Political Science Praxis 5931

13. **Introduction to Sociology**

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Sociology 1010 or equivalent

- Sociology Praxis 5952

14. **Cultural Anthropology or Archaeology**

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Anthropology 1010, 2030, or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

15. **Social Studies Methods:** The methods course combines theory with practice, providing opportunities to develop effective teaching strategies, including integrated approaches to teaching and learning with an emphasis on the central role of inquiry.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Social Studies Methods or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)
- National Board Certification in social studies area

SOCIOLOGY ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

For a **Professional Endorsement**, complete all five requirement areas. For an **Associate Endorsement**, earn a bachelor's degree or higher in the endorsement area, pass the appropriate Praxis test, or complete at least two of the requirements.

1. **Introduction to Sociology:** An understanding of the basic foundations of sociology, including its evolution as a field of inquiry, early sociological theories, and essential methodologies.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Sociology 1010 or equivalent
- Praxis 5952

2. **Social Problems:** Familiarity with the study of current social problems and the utilization of a sociological perspective in understanding those problems.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Sociology 1020 or equivalent
- Praxis 5952

3. **Marriage and Family or Sociology of Gender:** An understanding of the family and/or gender in the context of society and its seven sociological institutions: family, media, government, economy, technology, education, and religion.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Sociology 2600, 2370, or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

4. **Race and Ethnicity:** A familiarity with the concepts and implications of social constructs of race and ethnicity, connecting them to the idea of majority and minority groups and social structures of inequality, power, and stratification.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Sociology 2630 or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

5. **Social Studies Methods:** The methods course combines theory with practice, providing opportunities to develop effective teaching strategies, including integrated approaches to teaching and learning with an emphasis on the central role of inquiry.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Social Studies Methods or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)
- National Board Certification in social studies area

UTAH STUDIES ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

For a **Professional Endorsement**, complete all four requirement areas. For an **Associate Endorsement**, earn a bachelor's degree or higher in the endorsement area, pass the appropriate Praxis test, or complete at least two of the requirements.

1. **Utah History:** The study of significant events and themes in the history of Utah from prehistory to the present.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Utah History or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

2. **Utah Geography:** The study of significant aspects of the physical and human geography of Utah.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Utah Geography or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

3. **Utah Politics or Utah-related Elective:** A study of Utah's state and local politics or an in-depth study of a particular aspect of Utah history.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: History 1800 or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)

- 4. Social Studies Methods:** The methods course combines theory with practice, providing opportunities to develop effective teaching strategies, including integrated approaches to teaching and learning with an emphasis on the central role of inquiry.

Complete one of these options:

- University Course: Social Studies Methods or equivalent
- Microcredential stack (under development)
- National Board Certification in social studies area

Overview of Social Studies Competencies

Every social studies requirement expects an acquisition of content knowledge. A depth of knowledge is essential for success in teaching such an integrated subject. Candidates will exhibit a body of knowledge with enough breadth and depth necessary to make vital connections, often across academic disciplines, time, and geographic space, in their classrooms. Additionally, the following competencies are expected to be present in any social studies required area:

Text Collection and Analysis:

Collect, sift, organize, question, synthesize and interpret information found in texts and other sources.

Evaluate textual accounts in their many forms, critically scrutinize evidence, and evaluate, compare, and synthesize accounts.

Sourcing:

Interpret primary and secondary sources, assess the credibility of sources, seek alternative perspectives, and make sound judgments about the usefulness and limitations of the sources.

Argumentation:

Craft arguments regarding significant events or concepts with credible claims based on evidence found in varied texts, attending to the ambiguity found when using conflicting sources.

Chronological Reasoning:

Apply chronological reasoning, accounting for the role of time in sequencing, causation, changes and continuities, and the role of time when providing context to the interpretation of the meaning and significance of events or concepts, with attention to both continuity and change over time.

Inquiry:

Generate substantive, open-ended compelling questions worthy of study and develop research processes for responding to those inquiries.

Reading and Viewing:

Read and interpret a wide range of texts, attending to the disciplinary approaches necessary to construct meaning and produce text-based interpretations.

Written and Oral Production:

Write, and speak with clarity and precision, for a variety of audiences, particularly when crafting well-supported arguments and research findings.

Civil Discourse:

Engage in civil discussions regarding issues of importance, which may include discipline-specific topics as well as contentious issues of the day, attending to claims and evidence, norms for collaborative conversations, and respectful dialogue.

Additional Questions?

As you navigate the endorsement process, please feel free to reach out to the USBE for support and advice:

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