Social Studies

I. Knowing the Content

The professional education program provides evidence that Social Studies certification candidates complete a program with the same academic core content area courses and required electives of a major in a bachelor's degree in one of the Social Studies disciplines along with collateral coursework in the remaining content areas. This program shall require the candidates to demonstrate the competencies necessary to teach the Pennsylvania Social Studies Academic Standards grades 7-12 and successfully execute required teacher examinations.

I.A. History that shall include:

- the study of human experiences including important events,
- interactions of culture, race and ideas, and the nature of prejudice,
- change and continuity in political systems,
- effects of technology,
- importance of global-international perspectives,
- the integration of geography, economics, and civics studies on major developments in the history of the Commonwealth, the United States, and the world

I.B. Geography that shall include:

- the study of relationships among people, places and environments,
- geographic tools and methods,
- characteristics of places,
- concept of region and physical processes

I.C. Civics and Government that shall include:

- the study of the United States constitutional democracy,
- the values and principles that support our republican form of government,
- the study of the Constitution of the United States and the Commonwealth including the study of principles, operations, and documents of government, rights and responsibilities of citizenship,
- how governments work and international relations

I.D. Economics that shall include:

- economic concepts and systems,
- individual and societal use of resources to produce, distribute and consume goods and services,
- local, state and national commerce,
- international trade and global economies

I.E. Anthropology including:

- origins of human culture and cultural change,
- rituals and kinship,
- cultural and social organization

I.F. Psychology including:

- growth and human development,
- personality, group identification and collective behavior,
- human adjustment, prejudices, tolerance and other coping behaviors,
- cognition as it relates to education

I.G. Sociology including:

- social organization, movements, change and the socialization process,
- demography, immigration trends and local and national responses,
- role of race, gender, and ethnicity in individual and national identity,
- cultural unity and diversity in a pluralistic society,
- changing role of the family in society

II. Performances

The professional education program shall provide opportunities for each certification candidate to apply and demonstrate effective instructional dispositions and techniques for teaching the Pennsylvania Academic Social Studies Standards grades 7-12 in sequential and developmental field experiences and student teaching, under the supervision of college personnel and cooperating teachers who are well trained, have interpersonal skills and demonstrated competence in teaching. The program also provides evidence that the criteria and competencies for exit from the program are assessed in the coursework, field experiences and student teaching through:

II.A. Exposure to and practice with a variety of instructional methods consistent with developing competencies for teaching Pennsylvania Academic Standards grades 7-12

II.B. Early field placements with opportunities for participation in routine professional activities

II.C. Opportunities to plan for instruction based on Pennsylvania Academic Standards grades 7-12, teacher expertise, and knowledge of students and the community

II.D. Appropriate dispositions and techniques that promote and maintain a positive instructional environment

II.E. Technology to facilitate instructional planning, teaching, and classroom applications

II.F. Opportunities to select, analyze and modify instructional materials to meet the needs of diverse learners

II.G. Opportunities to implement, adjust, and assimilate effective instruction strategies for reading, writing, and speaking in the content areas of the Social Studies

II.H. Opportunities to employ a variety of methods to assess and provide feedback of student understanding of content and appropriate skills in the content areas

III. Professionalism

The professional education program requires each certification candidate to demonstrate competencies that foster professionalism in school and community settings including:

III.A. Integrity and ethical behavior, professional conduct as stated in Pennsylvania's Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators; and local, state, and federal laws and regulations

III.B. The ability to explore and foster professional communication and collaboration with colleagues

III.C. The ability to communicate effectively with parents/guardians, organizations, and community groups

III.D. Knowledge of and involvement with professional organizations and appropriate community and academic-related resources