Three Big Things:
- Experience a rewarding career
- Gain a Global Education
- Become part of a community of scholars

The social studies program is composed of various social science disciplines designed to give students the necessary background and intellectual tools, which are key to understanding culture and history.

History, geography, economics, and government are ways to investigate change and continuity in human societies. Thus, the focus is to understand the development of these cultures and peoples in order to enhance comprehension of both the past and the present.

Today’s social scientists and historians explore such topics as the causes and consequences of war, foreign policy, popular attitudes and beliefs, religious and legal traditions, and the social and political roles women and minorities played in the conflict between groups and ideologies.

In piecing together the puzzle of human experience, historians interpret evidence as a means of understanding the past and its relationship to the present.

Knowledge and Skills
Students learn to gather and organize information efficiently, analyze and evaluate evidence, argue persuasively and express ideas clearly. Social studies stress the importance of defining problems, and examining their origins, in the search for solutions.

These attributes, when combined with the education program, enable students to accurately relay relevant historical information to pupils in the public school system.

Career Opportunities
Most social studies students do not intend to be professional historians, but rather to gain employment in the teaching profession and various other related fields.

Students use their knowledge, skills, and communication abilities as a stepping-stone to a variety of careers. This is especially true in business, government, journalism, law, and public education. Others range from research positions in business and public agencies, to archival, curatorial, and social work. Thus there are very few careers for which social studies does not provide essential preparation.

Curriculum
The social studies major is designed to provide a progression of introductory, intermediate, and advanced courses. It focuses on critical thinking, understanding and communication, not memorization.

Social studies majors must complete a minimum of 76 credit hours taken from the course requirements list for a BAE in Education/Social Studies.

Other program offerings are: 30 credit secondary endorsement minor, a 60 credit major for elementary teachers, and a 60 credit add-on/ supporting endorsement.

Within these limits students are free to design their own programs emphasizing areas of greatest interest, and in addition, students may arrange reading, research, or specific topic courses with individual faculty.

Special Features
A significant part of the social studies major is the commitment of the faculty to effectively teach all course levels, whether introductory, intermediate, or advanced. This direct access to faculty, both inside
and outside the classroom, is of great importance, especially to freshmen and sophomores. The department recognizes the best undergraduate work and students are invited to informal faculty presentations throughout the year. Well-known speakers visit the campus, and many meet with students in small group discussions.

Every effort is made to place interested students in internships related to their career goals. In addition, a limited number of department work-study positions are available, allowing selected students to work directly with faculty members.

**Preparation for College**

The most important areas of preparation are reading, writing and critical thinking skills. Social studies students should have a genuine curiosity about their own and other societies, and the motivation to pursue serious study.

Completing the requirements for high school graduation is necessary for admission to EWU, but only finishing the minimum coursework will leave you unprepared for college. Courses that are useful are extra mathematics, computer use, and that provide exposure to visual or performing arts.

**For Further Information**

Department of History  
Social Studies Education Program  
200 Patterson hall  
Eastern Washington University  
Cheney, WA 99004-2430  
Phone: 509-359-2337

**Internet Access**

The department website provides more information. Please go to:  
http://www.ewu.edu/sost

**The University**

Eastern Washington University is a student-centered, regionally based, comprehensive university. Its campus is located in Cheney within the Spokane metropolitan area, with additional learning centers in the region and elsewhere in Washington State. With more than 100 fields of study, nine master's degrees, four graduate certificates, 76 graduate programs and a physical therapy doctoral program, its mission is to prepare broadly educated, technologically proficient, and highly productive citizens to attain meaningful careers, to enjoy enriched lives, and to make contributions to a culturally diverse society.

Our mission to be a student-centered, regionally engaged university will be fulfilled best through a distinguished EWU academic experience that is integrated and interdependent. This vision informs and inspires our future.

**Note:**

Information in this guide is subject to change without notice. To learn more about the official program of study for Social Studies Education please check the catalog online at:  
http://www.ewu.edu/x15588.xml