

RU Interested In...

## SOCIAL SCIENCE

### AT A GLANCE...

Department at RU:	History
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College at RU:	Humanities and Behavioral Sciences
Degree Type:	Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science

### CAREER ABSTRACT

The major in Social Science is interdisciplinary involving coursework in four core areas: History, Political Science, Geography and Economics. Within the major two options are offered: a Teaching Option (45 semester hours) for those seeking teaching certification at the secondary level, and Non-Teaching (51 semester hours) for those interested in advanced degree work, law school, or archival, library, museum and historical preservation opportunities.

Social Science majors upon graduation will have substantial awareness of social science methodology, content, and research. The major enhances the graduate's reading, writing, and oral skills and the ability to process diverse information into a coherent whole. In particular the Social Science major will develop an understanding and appreciation of the interconnectedness of the various social science disciplines. Graduates will also have been exposed to a wide diversity of cultures and develop a keen appreciation for the aesthetic and intellectual life.

Radford University offers a broad range of Social Science courses in the designated departments. Many of those courses taken to meet the Social Science General Education requirement at the university also count toward the major requirements.

### CAREER PATHS

Graduates with a Social Science major have a wide variety of career options. Although not an absolute requirement, students intending to be certified to teach in secondary schools are advised to take the Social Science major. The interdisciplinary nature of the major tends to make the graduate more attractive than one who major in a single discipline.

Study in the Social Sciences also is a good preparation for individuals wanting to follow careers in law or paralegal studies, archival or museum work, politics and government, retail, administration and management, and the civil service. Depending upon career choice, close consultation with your department adviser for course selection and more generally with the Career Services Center is strongly recommended.

### QUESTIONS STUDENTS OFTEN ASK

- What are the specific requirements for the degree?  
Social Science majors pursuing the Non-Teaching option take 51 semester hours including a minimum 18 hours of History courses (with 6 additional hours possible); a minimum 12 hours in Political Science (with 6 additional hours possible), 3 hours in Geography, and 3 hours in Economics, in addition to a

secondary concentration (9 hours) in one of the following disciplines: Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, or Economics. Social Science majors choosing the Teaching option take 45 semester hours including 18 hours in History, 12 hours in Political Science, 6 hours in Geography, and 3 hours in Economics in addition to a 6 hour concentration in one of the following disciplines: History, Political Science, Geography, or Economics. Within the major (either option) certain specific courses are required.

- What is the difference between the B.A. in Social Science and the B.S. in Social Science?

To earn a B.A. in Social Science the student must earn the equivalent of twelve semester hours in a foreign language unless the student qualifies to start in a more advanced college class and earns automatic credit for previous study. Students pursuing the B.S. in Social Science must take 6-8 semester hours from the department-approved list of courses that includes offerings in Science, Math and Information Systems, in addition to some in Anthropology, Art, English, Philosophy, Psychology, and Sociology. Students who intend to pursue graduate work in any of the Social Sciences are strongly advised to meet the requirements of the B.A. degree, and double majoring in Social Science along with one of the specific Social Science disciplines.

- Are internships available?

Yes, students can earn 3-15 semester hours in a Social Science discipline for a one-semester internship with a museum, historical society, public agency, or politician. Individual departments can provide general advice in this area and arrangements can be made through the Center for Experiential Learning. The student should work in close consultation with the department granting credit for the internship since it will approve and supervise the internship.

- What special skills or abilities will I develop as a Social Science major in a liberal arts context?

Skills acquired through a Social Science major include the following: communications skills, including enhanced writing and speaking skills; ability to gather information through reading and research; ability to analyze large quantities of data; ability to summarize and synthesize information; ability to draw logical conclusions from information; critical thinking skills; and the ability to place specific events into a larger context.

- How do I receive certification to teach at the junior secondary or secondary level?

A Social Science major seeking teaching licensure must complete a specified core of semester hours in education, which includes classroom instruction, observation in the schools, and student teaching. Students should make application to the Teacher Education Program no later than their junior year and must pass through a screening program in their major. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required for admission to the program, but is not in itself a guarantee of admission. Students must pass both Praxis I and Praxis II exams before beginning student teaching. Education courses are taken by students during their final three semesters. In addition, students anticipating a teaching career must take one of the General Education speech courses. For additional information about the Teacher Education Program, contact the Department of Educational Studies.

- Where can I obtain additional information about careers in Social Science?

Department liaison, faculty and alumni  
RU Career Services Center  
RU McConnell Library  
RU Humanities and Behavioral Sciences Advising Center  
RU Admissions Office  
Various professional organizations of Social Science disciplines