

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES**  
**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION\ACADEMIC AND PERSONNEL**

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***ACTION:***                                **Approve Addition of New Concentrations in Geography, History and Political Science to the Social Sciences Comprehensive Major and Elimination of Geography, History and Political Science Subject Majors for Wayne State College**

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Per Board Policy 4200, which requires all academic program additions and eliminations to be submitted to the Board for approval, Wayne State College seeks approval to add the following concentrations within the Social Sciences Comprehensive Major, beginning Fall 2023, in conjunction with the elimination of associated stand-alone subject majors.

Add, within the Social Sciences Comprehensive Major:

- Concentration in Geography
- Concentration in History
- Concentration in Political Science

Eliminate:

- Subject Major in Geography
- Subject Major in History
- Subject Major in Political Science

The System Office and Wayne State College recommend approval of the Addition of Concentrations and Eliminate Subject Majors in Geography History & Political Science.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- WSC Elimination of Subject Majors and Addition of Social Sciences Concentrations March 2023 Final (PDF)

## Wayne State College

### Proposal to Add New Concentrations in Geography, History and Political Science to the Social Sciences Comprehensive Major AND Eliminate Geography, History and Political Science Subject Majors

#### 1. Descriptive Information

A. Name of Institution: Wayne State College

B. Name of Program: Social Sciences

C. Degrees/credentials to be awarded graduates of the program:

Comprehensive Major in Social Sciences with the following concentrations:

- Concentration in Geography
- Concentration in History
- Concentration in Political Science

D. Other programs offered in this field by the institution:

- Field Endorsement in Social Science
- Subject Endorsement in Geography
- Subject Endorsement in History
- Subject Endorsement in Political Science

Minors in:

- Social Science
- Geography
- Geospatial Technology
- International Studies
- Mapping
- Travel and Tourism
- History
- Political Science
- Public Administration
- Pre-Law

E. CIP codes:

- Geography 45.0701
- History 54.0101
- Political Science 45.1001
- Social Sciences 45.0101

F. Administrative units for the program:

Department of History, Politics and Geography – School of Arts and Humanities

- G. Proposed delivery site(s) and type(s) of delivery, if applicable: Wayne campus
- H. Proposed date (term/year) the program will be initiated: Fall 2023
- I. Description of Program:

The proposed Social Sciences program, with concentrations in History, Political Science, and Geography will deliver a discipline-specific approach to instruction within the framework of an interdisciplinary program. This program will strengthen the analytical skills of students who will become familiar with a variety of research methodologies and bodies of knowledge while preparing them with the disciplinary familiarity necessary for graduate education. Students will have a core curriculum which includes courses in the three disciplines. Choices among upper-level courses in the Social Sciences Core will allow for “cross-pollination,” comparison of the advantages and disadvantages of accepted, but varied, research methodologies and communication styles.

The skills developed in the re-organized Social Sciences program are valuable within these disciplines and in a variety of workplaces. Recent graduates from the current history, political science, and geography majors have paired these programs of study with double-majors in career-oriented programs like Criminal Justice, Business, and Film Theory and Production (a growing concentration in Mass Communication). The proposed program is designed to support students who want to follow in their footsteps.

**Major in the Social Sciences (BA or BS) 42-48 hours**

**Social Sciences Core: 12 hours**

- GEO 120 World Regional Geography ..... 3
- Choose one of the following HIS courses ..... 3
  - HIS 310: The Renaissance and Reformation (3)
  - HIS 315: The Age of Enlightenment (3)
  - HIS 425: History of the British Empire (3)
  - HIS 447: War and Society in World History (3)
  - HIS 450: The American West (3)
  - HIS 451: American Indian History (3)
- Choose one of the following POS courses ..... 3
  - POS 350 The American Presidency (3)
  - POS 355 Politics of the Supreme Court (3)
  - POS 365 Comparative Politics (3)
  - POS 420 American Constitutional Law (3)
  - POS 425 Rights and Liberties (3)
  - POS 445 Public Administration and Management (3)
- Choose one of the following courses depending on concentration ..... 3
  - GEO 315 World Economic Geography (3)
  - SSC 485 Social Sciences Senior Seminar (3)
  - SSC 490 Social Sciences Research Seminar (3)
  - POS 430 Public Policy (3)
  - Or appropriate Honors Course 395 or 499 (3)

**Geography Concentration: 30 hours + 12 hour core**

(Requires GEO 315 World Economic Geography in core.)

GEO 130 Physical Geography .....	3
GEO 425 Urban Geographic Information Systems OR	
GEO 430 Geographic Information Systems OR	
GEO 435 Computer Mapping.....	3
Earth Science and/or Geography electives.....	24
(12 of the 24 hours must be upper level courses)	

**48 hour concentration includes the above plus:**

6 hours of Upper Level GEO courses (6)

**History Concentration: 30 hours + 12 hour core**

(Requires SSC 490 Social Sciences Research Seminar or appropriate Honors Course 395/499 in core.)

The Major includes 3 hours of General Studies History requirements. No course with a grade below "C" will be accepted as part of the minimum requirements for the History major.

HIS 170 World Civilizations I .....	3
HIS 171 World Civilizations II .....	3
HIS 280 America, 1500 BC to 1845 .....	3
HIS 281 America, 1845-1945.....	3
HIS 385 America, 1945 to the Present.....	3
U.S. Upper Level History .....	3
Non-U.S. Upper Level History .....	6
History Electives.....	6

**48 hour concentration includes the above plus:**

6 hours of Upper Level HIS courses .....

**Political Science Concentration: 30 hours + 12 hour core**

(Requires POS 430 Public Policy or appropriate Honors Course 395/499 in core.)

POS 100 American National Government .....	3
POS 110 Introduction to World Politics .....	3
POS 315 Seminar in Political Theory.....	3

**American Politics**

Choose 6 hours from the following:..... 6

POS 350 The American Presidency (3)	
POS 355 Politics of the Supreme Court (3)	
POS 360 Congressional Politics (3)	
POS 420 American Constitutional Law (3)	
POS 425 Rights and Liberties (3)	
POS 444 Topics in Political Science - by advisement (3)	

**Public Administration and Policy**

Choose 6 hours from the following:..... 6

POS 390 Public Budgeting and Finance (3)	
POS 402 State and Local Politics (3)	
POS 410 Public Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation (3)	
POS 444 Topics in Political Science - by advisement (3)	
POS 445 Public Administration and Management (3)	
SSC 319 Statistics for the Social Sciences (3)	

***International Relations/Comparative***

Choose 3 hours from the following: ..... 3

- POS 365 Comparative Government and Politics (3)
- POS 444 Topics in Political Science-by advisement (3)

***Electives***

The 6 hours of electives may be selected at the student’s discretion from any of the three areas above in consultation with the academic advisor. An approved internship may qualify for 3 hours of elective credit.

**48 hour concentration includes the above plus:**

6 hours of upper-level POS courses ..... 6

**2. Centrality to Role and Mission**

This proposal moves the existing stand-alone subject majors in History, Geography and Political Science into concentrations under an existing Social Sciences comprehensive major. The new concentrations have been meticulously drafted to maintain the academic integrity of these disciplines, while remaining focused on WSC’s commitment to “rigorous teaching, active learning, and meaningful service that engages students on a path to transformational leadership”. The course work provided in Social Sciences has long provided fundamental experiences in the Humanities for WSC students and will continue to do so within a new structure. The proposed concentrations will ensure future pathways for students interested in pursuing careers or graduate study in one or more of the disciplines contained within the proposed concentrations.

**3. Evidence of Need and Demand**

Need for the program:

Understanding why groups behave as they do is fundamental to operating in a globalized economy. Analysis of people in groups and explaining behavior is foundational to the social and global competencies sought by employers in all graduates. Analysis of human social phenomena is shared by the three academic disciplines of History, Political Science, and Geography. Moreover, courses within the disciplines of History, Political Science, and Geography, provide the foundation of the teacher training program in Social Studies field endorsements and subject area endorsements. There is currently a high demand for Social Studies teachers at the high school level and the courses available under the new Social Sciences program will continue to help them meet their needs. The state of Nebraska is currently understaffed in Social Studies teachers with 18 positions remaining unfilled this past year alone.

Demand for the Program:

Though enrollments have declined in social science programs around the country, there remains a high demand in the workforce for students with a good understanding of the social sciences. In response to this, a number of colleges similar to WSC have moved towards combining programs within the Social Sciences, like Indiana University Southeast and Upper Iowa University. Projected five-year student averages will be approximately 21 earned degrees and 98 majors. Moreover, there is a high demand on the WSC campus for courses in History, Politics, and Geography, with the highest student to faculty ratio of any department on campus with an average of 658 SCH/FTE.

#### **4. Adequacy of Resources**

Faculty and Staff Resources:

Current faculty and staff resources are adequate. All courses are currently delivered within the current structure.

Physical Facilities:

All courses will be offered in Connell Hall, which offers adequate classroom space and technology.

Instructional Equipment and Informational Resources:

The current instructional equipment and resources are sufficient for this program.

Budget Projections for the first five years of program:

As all courses are currently offered on a regular rotation by existing faculty members, there are no expected increases in revenue or costs related to this proposal.

#### **5. Avoidance of Unnecessary Duplication**

The University of Nebraska system maintains their stand-alone majors in Geography, History and Political Science; while the other Nebraska State Colleges have concentrations within a Social Science program. Given the high demand for social science educators and the development of varied skills that are applicable to a number of careers, there is clearly a continued demand for programs in the social sciences.

#### **6. Consistency with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education**

Degrees in the Social Sciences intersect with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education in two primary areas, including responsiveness to workforce development and building a “knowledgeable, trained and skilled workforce”; as well as “preparing individuals for productive, fulfilling lives by developing and nurturing the citizens and future leaders of Nebraska.” As mentioned earlier, the skills developed through concentrations in this major will serve students in a variety of career fields.