

Why Earn my History/Social Studies Secondary Certificate at ISU?

ISU has the largest and most successful secondary license program in Iowa, with two tenure-track faculty—Dr. Amy Rutenberg and Dr. Jeff Bremer—dedicated to the program. We have both taught in the schools, Dr. Rutenberg in New York and Dr. Bremer in California. We know the challenges you face as a teacher, but we also know how well our program will prepare you for this important career. We require that our students earn at least a B- in every social-studies content course (history, political science, economics, etc.), as well as complete coursework in American, European, and world history. A series of increasingly rigorous education classes culminates in a 16-week semester-long student teaching experience. Graduates can teach in middle or high school.

The vast majority of our graduates find full-time teaching positions immediately after graduation. Over the past five years we have placed more than 80% of our students in teaching jobs, double the national placement rate. The May 2016 placement rate was 100%. Our students teach around the country from New York City to Texas to Arizona. We also have our graduates teaching overseas, in countries as diverse as Taiwan, Brazil, and Kosovo.

All candidates for a history/social studies license in Iowa will need to earn a history degree. This will provide you with endorsements (teaching areas) in American and world history. You then need to choose a third endorsement area, similar to a minor. These include American government, economics, psychology, anthropology and sociology.

If you have any questions, please contact the history department advisor, Dr. Kevin Hill (kdhill@iastate.edu), or contact Dr. Rutenberg (arutenbe@iastate.edu) or Dr. Bremer (jrbremer@iastate.edu).