

**NATIONAL COUNCIL for the SOCIAL STUDIES
Summary Report of Program Review Decisions**

Date of Review: Fall 02

 X Initial review
 2nd review
 3rd review

Coordinator of Reviews: Charles B. Myers

Institution Submitting Program

State

Southern Connecticut State University

CT

Program(s)

Degree Level

Middle school/secondary social studies -
Grades 7 – 12

Baccalaureate
Post-baccalaureate
Masters

Decisions

Program(s) that merits national recognition

None

Program(s) not approved for national recognition

Middle school/secondary social studies – Grades 7 - 12

Standards Met or Not Met

Note: The Program Review Report submitted by Southern Connecticut State University contained none of the required introductory information, did not address Standards 1.3 – 1.10 at all, and addressed Standards 1.1, 1.2, and 2.1 in only three total pages. Copies of many course syllabi are included (which NCSS suggests not be included) but they are not explained in terms of the standards. Pages appear to be missing and often out of order. It appears to the reviewers that the person or people who prepared the Report did not understand the task and did not compile the pages correctly.

Met: 3.2

Not Met: 1.1 – 1.10, 2.1, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4

Summary of Overall Program Strengths

Summary of Overall Program Weaknesses

Status of Performance Assessment Transition

Not applicable for social studies reviews

Comments on Contextual Information

Explanation and Rationale for Not Met Decisions for Each Standard

This section of the program reviewers' report includes a synopsis of the rationale and recommendations for each standard NOT MET. The report follows the order and format of the professional specialty association standards. Standards not listed are assumed MET.

All responses seem to focus only on the baccalaureate level.

Standards 1.1 – 1.10 and 2.1 are Not Met.

Standards 1.1, 1.2, and 2.1 are addressed superficially and inadequately (in only three total pages of responses to the matrix) and Standards 1.3 – 1.10 are not addressed at all. For Standards 1.1, 1.2, and 2.1, the programmatic evidence consists of only course titles or inadequate explanations of how the courses meet the content of the three standards, the information provided under the heading "Test Evidence" is not test evidence, and no performance evidence is provided.

Standard 3.1 is Not Met because there is not enough information to indicate if adequate course work beyond history is expected.

Standard 3.3 is Not Met because the social studies credentials of the methods course instructor are not describe adequately. (There is a reference to Appendix F but there are no pages in the section labeled as Appendix F.)

Standard 3.4 is Not Met because the information that is presented does not describe and explain the social studies focus of the field experiences and the social studies qualifications of the student teaching supervisors and cooperating teachers.

If the faculty of Southern Connecticut State University chooses to submit a rejoinder, it should take the form of a complete new Program Review Report, rather than the usual rejoinder format, and should address specifically the following:

All of Standards 1.1 – 1.10 must be addressed in matrix form with three types of evidence: programmatic, testing, and performance.

Standard 2.1 does not need to be addressed because the license for which the candidates are being recommended is social studies, not history.

Concerning programmatic evidence:

Programmatic evidence needs to describe course work that addresses the content of each of Standards 1.1 – 1.10 and needs to explain how the courses and experiences listed show the faculty that each candidate has had the opportunity to learn the content of each standard.

Concerning testing evidence:

Course-based testing evidence needs to show that candidates understand the content of each standard and explain how this is accomplished. It needs to include the following information for each standard:

- 1) How the test assesses the content of the particular standard;
- 2) The criteria used to assess candidate understanding of the content;
- 3) How the grades that separate the best, average, and poorest test performances are organized; and
- 4) The test results (grades) assigned to a recent cohort of candidates.

State-test-based testing evidence for social studies content knowledge needs to include for each candidate in a cohort of candidates both the overall test score and any sub-scores that address the specific standards. The Praxis II test of social studies content knowledge provides sub-scores for history (Standard 1.2), geography (Standard 1.3), government and civics (Standards 1.6 and 1.10), and economics (Standard 1.7)

Performance evidence needs to include all of the following for each standard:

- 1) How the expected candidate teaching performances address each standard;
- 2) How the performances demonstrate the candidate can teach school students the content of the standard;
- 3) The criteria that are used to evaluate the quality of the candidates classroom performances;
- 4) How grades are distributed so that they separate candidate

- performances of high, average, and low quality; and
- 5) The grades assigned to a recent cohort of candidates.

If the faculty chooses to submit a rejoinder, the reviewers suggest that faculty members consult the NCSS web page – www.ncss.org -- for the document, “Advice Concerning the Preparation of an Institution’s Social Studies Teacher Education Program Review Report.” They should also attend an NCSS Social Studies Teacher Education Program Standards Clinic.

In rejoinding this Summary Report of Program Review Decisions, the faculty should submit two copies of the rejoinder. The rejoinder should consist of a completely new Program Review Report, including the cover page; a copy of this Summary Report of Program Review Decisions; necessary introductory materials; the complete matrix for all standards; and attached documents necessary to explain, clarify, elaborate, or reinforce information presented in the matrix.

If these suggestions are not clear, please call Charles B. Myers, the NCSS Coordinator of Social Studies Teacher Education Program Reviews, at 615-322-5577.