

July 24, 2007

Dear Prospective Applicant:

I am glad to hear you are interested in the Social Studies education program at Montclair State University.

In addition, we offer two post-baccalaureate social studies certification programs. The first program is an Initial Instructional Certificate that entails completing the appropriate social science content requirements. You must have a major in history, anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, or sociology. If you did not major in one of these areas, then you will need to complete the major requirements for one of them. A major in history is highly recommended. Please take a look at the following site for information on social studies content requirements (<http://chss2.montclair.edu/socstudiesed/socstudieshome.htm>). This option entails twenty six (26) semester hours of education courses, a twelve (12) semester hour professional semester, and related social science content requirements. Please visit the following website for further information about this program (<http://cehs.montclair.edu/academic/cop/teacher/grad.shtml>)

The second program is a Master of Arts in Teaching Social Studies. Again, you must have a major in one of the above-listed social sciences. If you did not major in one of these areas, then you will need to complete the major requirements for one of them. A major in history is highly recommended. This option entails thirty five (35) semester hours in education, including the professional semester, twelve (12) semester hours in social sciences as determined by the social studies coordinator and related social science content requirements. At least two courses must be graduate-level. Please visit the following website for further information (<http://cehs.montclair.edu/academic/cop/teacher/grad.shtml>)

Admission to the social studies program is competitive. Nearly all students who earn admission have a 3.0 GPA in major and 3.0 GPA overall and a GRE above 500 Verbal and 500 Math. It is important that you obtain written recommendations from faculty who can attest to your academic performance in your content area major. For example, if you are a history major, then you should ask history professors to write your recommendations. The graduate application is available at (<http://www.montclair.edu/graduate/prospective/app.shtml>)

You should also become familiar with the national (<http://www.socialstudies.org/standards/>) and state social studies teaching standards (<http://www.state.nj.us/njded/frameworks/socialstudies/>). The American Historical Association has also compiled criteria for standards in history, social studies, and social sciences at (<http://www.historians.org/teaching/policy/CriteriaForStandards.htm>)

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Professor Esperanza Brizuela-Garcia at (brizuelagare@mail.montclair.edu) or the history department chair Michael Whelan at (whelanm@mail.montclair.edu).

Cordially,

The History Department