

July 24, 2007

Dear Prospective Applicant:

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

We offer an undergraduate Social Studies Teacher Certification program to students that major in history, anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, and sociology. A major in history is highly recommended because that is the subject you will primarily teach. If you did not major in one of these areas, then you will need to complete the major requirements for one of them but 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>). The student must complete thirty (30) semester hours of related social science coursework in addition to their history or social science major. In addition, students must complete approximately forty-two (42) semester hours of education courses, including a twelve (12) semester hour professional semester.

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>)

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. You can apply via the Center of Pedagogy website (<http://cehs.montclair.edu/academic/cop/teacher/undergrad.shtml>). 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.

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