

Social Science Secondary Education Program Annual Report, 2018-19

General:

This year the Social Science Secondary Education (History) Program consisted of ten students. Dr. Mullgardt prepared the annual report to the ISBE, and that body approved our program for another year. We had one graduating senior this year.

Student Teaching:

One student taught (successfully) in an area high school this year during the fall term. Dr. Mullgardt observed the candidate teach history courses, and met with the candidate and his cooperating teacher at the midterm and the end of term to discuss progress and areas for improvement. The student graduated in December.

Conference Presentation

In the fall one Social Science Secondary Education major gave a revised version of a paper she wrote for Dr. Mullgardt's Cold War class at the Conference on Illinois History. Dr. Mullgardt worked with her in the revision of the manuscript, and her presentation was well executed and received.

Webpage Re-Design

Dr. Mullgardt re-designed the Social Science Secondary Education webpage to better set Millikin's program apart by stressing its emphasis on innovative teaching. It now offers up examples of type of teaching strategies students will learn at Millikin.

World History:

Both Dr. Sampson's pre-1500 section in the fall, and Dr. Kovalcik's post-1500 section in the spring saw increased enrollment, and much if not all of this year's incoming freshman majors will be in the pre-1500 course. The addition of these classes not only better prepares our students for the World History portion of the 114 content exam, it also makes them better teachers and makes our program more competitive with peer institutions that offer these courses.

Cohort Development

Dr. Mullgardt took new measures to develop esprit de corps among Social Science Education majors by first hosting a guest speaker for them in the spring, and then placing them in the same history and political science courses for this fall. In the spring, Dr. Mullgardt arranged for a Millikin alumnae who is an area high school teacher to speak to his advisees about what her job is like and field questions. Most majors attended and the talk was informative and well-received. During Advising Day Dr. Mullgardt made sure that the majority of his advisees signed up for Dr. Lusvardi's introductory Political Science course, Dr. Sampson's World History course, and placed all incoming freshmen in the same ED120/170 cohort.

ISBE Regulations

The Illinois State Board of Education has cut back on the demands of teacher candidates by removing the Basic Skills Test/ACT from its requirements. While it maintains the EdTPA senior assessment that causes some consternation among students, thus far all graduating Social Science Secondary Education majors have passed that with above average results.