

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

Iowa State University has a well-regarded secondary licensure program across the state of Iowa, with two tenure-track faculty – Dr. Amy Rutenberg and Dr. Jeff Bremer – dedicated to the program. Dr. Bremer and Dr. Rutenberg have both taught history in public schools – Dr. Rutenberg in New York and Dr. Bremer in California – so they understand the challenges you will face as a teacher. They also know how well ISU’s program will prepare you for this important career.

ISU’s program has high standards. We require that our students earn at least a B- in every social-studies content course (history, political science, economics, psychology, etc.) that will be used to apply for licensure. We also require that our students earn multiple endorsements. History majors need to earn at least three (American history, world history, and one more of their choosing). Political science majors need to earn at least two endorsements (American government and one more of their choosing). Both majors culminate with a 16-week, full-time student-teaching experience in a middle-school, a high-school, or both.

Our combination of high standards and multiple endorsements means that our students get jobs. We regularly place more than 90% of our graduates in teaching jobs by the start of the academic year following their graduation. Our recent graduates are currently teaching in schools across Iowa; across the United States, including in Minnesota, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Pennsylvania; and around the world, including in Taiwan, Malaysia, Brazil, and Kosovo.

Additionally, because our students major in history or political science, they can go on to work in any other job that students of these majors do if they decide that teaching is not the right fit. Recent social studies teacher-education graduates have also chosen to go into school counseling, archival and library work, accounting, the law, the military, and to return to graduate school for history.

If you have questions about our program, please contact Dr. Rutenberg (arutenbe@iastate.edu), Dr. Bremer (jrbremer@iastate.edu), or the history department advisor, Dr. Kevin Hill (kdhill@iastate.edu). We look forward to hearing from you.