Undergraduate Certificate in Civics Teaching

Program Overview

The Civics Teaching Certificate will provide pre-service teachers with complementary, civics teaching-focused coursework that will build on and enhance the Social Science Education B.S. curriculum. Individuals enrolled in the Civics Teaching certificate program will learn the substantive content, skills and pedagogical tools needed to deliver instruction explicitly linked to the 7th grade Civics End of Course Assessment (EOCA) in Florida. The Civics Teaching Certificate will also support and enhance high school U.S. government instruction. Reflecting the importance of service and experiential learning in civic education, enrollees will also take part in a summer internship that involves them in hands-on practice with local government.

Pre-service teachers enrolled in the Social Science Education B.S. major will complete four courses to develop expertise in civics content, pedagogy and assessment. The Civics Teaching Certificate will be completed as a three semester sequence. There will be two courses in the summer and one course in the fall, followed by a final spring course. Summer coursework will include an internship in a local government office.*

School districts throughout Florida will be provided a list of students completing the certificate with a description of credentials fulfilled each year. These follow-up efforts will support teachers’ efforts to secure employment as civics teachers in Florida.

Application requirements:
Admission to the Social Science B.S. program, junior or senior standing C (2.0) or better in POS 2041 (or a 3 on the AP U.S. Government and Politics exam).

Application includes a letter of intent and an unofficial transcript. The letter of intent should outline how the Civics Teaching Certificate will strengthen your professional preparation to teach civics in Florida.

Admission by competitive application

Application deadline: April 15, 2016.

Please direct questions to Dr. Terri Susan Fine, Professor of Political Science and Civics Teaching Certificate coordinator at terri.fine@ucf.edu, 407-823-2081 or 407-823-3636.

Applications should be submitted to: civicsteaching@ucf.edu

Scholarships may be available on a competitive basis.

*The Spring 2017 course will also serve as the first course of the sequence for the next group of students.

Courses

Required courses to be completed in the following sequence:

- **POS 3272 Civic Engagement**
  - Summer 2016 online
- **POS 4941 Internship in Florida Local Government**
  - Summer 2016
- **Both POS 3272 and POS 4941 may be completed anywhere in Florida including the student’s home town.**

- **SSE 4932 Teaching Civics in Florida**
  - Fall 2016 Monday evenings
  - SSE 4932 Teaching Civics in Florida brings together the theories, content, and experiences to focus on their application in civics and government classes in Florida.

- **POS 4932 Teaching American Politics and Government**
  - Spring 2017 Monday evenings
  - POS 4932 Teaching American Politics and Government fulfills the upper division political science course requirement needed to complete the B.S. in Social Science Education.

Applications for the Summer 2016 inaugural program will be accepted through April 15, 2016.

* Last course for inaugural program; first course for second year of program.