Program Mission Statement

The Social Studies Education program prepares teacher candidates to successfully instruct comprehensive social studies at the middle and high school levels. The program provides systematic opportunities that support candidates’ development into competent, caring, and contributing professionals within diverse learning communities. These opportunities emanate from competencies identified within local, state, and national educational frameworks and are delivered via discipline-based and pedagogical coursework, which is linked with extensive field-based experience in local partner schools and districts.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

Content/Discipline-Specific Knowledge/Skills

• The candidate will utilize a comprehensive knowledge of their instructional content to deepen and enrich students’ understanding through application of subject matter.
• The candidate will utilize a comprehensive knowledge of their instructional content to relate and integrate the subject matter with other disciplines and life experiences.
• The candidate will engage in targeted professional growth opportunities and reflective practices.
• The candidate adheres to the ethics and principles of the education profession.

Communication Skills

• To maintain a student-centered learning environment that is safe, organized, equitable, inclusive, and collaborative, the candidate will convey high expectations to all students.
• The candidate will collaborate with the home, school, and larger community to foster communication and to support student learning.

Critical Thinking Skills

• Applying concepts from human development and learning theories, the candidate will develop learning experiences that require students to demonstrate a variety of applicable skills and competencies.
• The candidate will analyze and apply data from multiple assessments and measures to diagnose student learning needs and develop instructional activities based on these needs.

Assessment Approaches

UNF graduates of the B.A.E in Social Studies Education program will demonstrate mastery of subject-area and pedagogical content knowledge through proficiency in core, major, and clinical experiences. It is expected that teacher candidates apply knowledge and skills throughout the program by demonstrating understanding, competence, and effective implementation as reflected within Florida DOE and related professional standards. Strategies to assess learning outcomes include a) demonstration of knowledge and skills as required by Florida DOE through a variety of identified course-based critical tasks, surveys, and field-based portfolio assignments and b) successful completion of the General Knowledge, Professional Education, and Social Studies 6-12 Subject tests of the Florida Teacher Certification Exam.