

HIED Orientation Session

What is “TOSS”?

Teaching of Specific Subjects (History and Social Studies)

HIED 4413: 6 credit-hour social studies methods class, meets MTW for several weeks at beginning and end of semester. Currently offered each FA and SP semester, 9:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

HIED 4414: 3 credit-hour field experience; Phase I: report to middle school one day per week for 5 weeks; Phase II: report to middle school MTWRF for 5 weeks. 4-5 hours per day. Your schedule will depend on your collaborating teacher’s schedule.

What will you learn in TOSS?

- Curriculum standards (national – NCSS, state – GPS)
- Standards of professional behavior
- Historical and philosophical foundations of social studies ed
- Advanced Unit and Lesson Planning Skills
- Teaching Strategies (“best practices”) and Skills
- Assessment Skills
- Classroom Management
- How to be a teacher

And . . . you will begin to practice your teaching through micro-teaching and a middle school field experience.



How can you prepare for TOSS?

Develop the Habits of Highly Successful HIED Students:

1. Keep a calendar and keep it up-to-date.

- Work on time management skills.
- Get things done on time.
- Learn to plan ahead and have a Plan A and a Plan B and

2. Develop a filing system for the papers in your life – school, business, and personal.

Save your notes and textbooks from your history, geography, political science, economics, psychology, and other social studies courses.

3. Build a strong base of content knowledge. Finish all other courses before TOSSing.

- Take the History GACE exams and others. Plan to be certified in several areas when you graduate.
- Take extra courses if you can, particularly ANTH, SOCI, and PSYCH.
- LEARN all that you can about the different disciplines of the social sciences.

4. Pay attention to your GPA.

- Be aware of the 3.0 requirement for 24 hours of Teaching Area courses: Econ, History, Geography and Political Science courses.
- No 2.75 overall, no TOSS. No 2.75 after TOSS, no student teaching.
- A 2.75 does not inspire much confidence in your content knowledge or the importance you place on your own education. Higher is better.

5. Work consistently to improve your speaking and writing skills.

“Quality is Job 1!”
As public writers and speakers, teachers’ communication skills must be exemplary. Use the KSU Writing Center and other resources for improving your writing.

6. Save money early and often and lots of it!

Working during TOSS and student teaching is not advisable.

7. Be aware of how you present yourself in your personal life and in your classes.

- Be mindful of your reputation, what you say and what you do.
- Clean up your Facebook and other social networking venues.
- Check you KSU email often.
- Do some soul-searching. Be sure you have the knowledge, skills and dispositions to be a good teacher.
- Be aware that faculty members will be assessing your character and dispositions.
- Think about the kind of teacher you want to be.
- Practice “thinking like a teacher.”

In sum . . . the Boy Scout motto also works for TOSS and student teaching!



Be Prepared.

Academically

Professionally

Personally

&

Financially

8. Keep friends and family informed.

- As an adult, you must handle your own professional responsibilities.
- Inform friends and family about program requirements.
- Enlist their support.