4260.45 Social Foundations of Education (M.S.)

Department of Educational Policy Studies
450 College of Education Building, 404/413-8030
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William Curlette, Chair

Social foundations of education is a broadly conceived field of educational study that derives its character from a number of academic disciplines and interdisciplinary studies. At Georgia State University, the disciplines involved in social foundations inquiry are history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, and political science; the interdisciplinary field is cultural studies. The purpose of social foundations study is to bring intellectual resources derived from these areas to bear in developing interpretive, normative, and critical perspectives on education, both inside of and outside of schools. Applicants to the Master of Science program with a major in social foundations of education must, in addition to standard admission requirements, (a) interview with program faculty, (b) submit a writing sample; and (c) submit three letters of recommendation, two of which should represent familiarity with the applicant’s academic ability.

Advisory Committee

A master’s advising committee of three faculty members guides each student’s study for the M.S. degree in Social Foundations of Education in the Department of Educational Policy Studies. One member of the Social Foundations faculty should be selected as the chair of the committee. The students and the chair will select two other members for the committee, at least one of who must be a member of the Social Foundations faculty. The committee is responsible for planning the program of study and for directing master’s thesis research or master’s projects. During the last academic term of coursework, each student will be required to complete an oral examination. The candidate’s committee will administer the examination, which is not to exceed two hours.

Program Degree Requirements

Master of Science in Social Foundations of Education

A. Professional Studies (15)
   o Select one (3):
     ▪ EPRS 7900 Methods of Research in Education (3)
     ▪ EPRS 7910 Action Research (3)
     ▪ EPRS 7920 Classroom Testing, Grading, and Assessment (3)
   o Select one (3):
- **EPSF 7100** Critical Pedagogy (3)
- **EPSF 7110** Multicultural Education (3)
- **EPSF 7120** Social and Cultural Foundations in Education (3)

  o Select one (3):
    - **EPY 7080** The Psychology of Learning and Learners (3)
    - **EPY 7090** The Psychology of Learning and Learners: The Young Child (3)

  o For students completing a master’s thesis (6)
    Required (6) (choose one):
    - **EPS 7990** Master’s Thesis (6)

  o For students completing a master’s project (6)
    Required (3):
    - **EPS 7991** Master’s Project (3)

  o Select one course with the EPSF prefix (3)

B. **Major (15)**

Taking a minimum of 15 semester hours of coursework from the social foundations offerings fulfills the major in social foundations of education. Majors may represent the disciplines of history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, and political science and the interdisciplinary field of cultural studies. These courses are selected from the following list. Courses in other program areas in the Department of Educational Policy Studies or other courses in the college or university may also be appropriate to include as part of the major with approval from the students’ advisory committee.

  o Select five (15):
    - **EPSF 7100** Critical Pedagogy (3)
    - **EPSF 7110** Multicultural Education (3)
    - **EPSF 7120** Social and Cultural Foundations of Education (3)
    - **EPSF 7450** Curriculum Foundations for the Educational Leader (3)
    - **EPSF 8010** Cultural Studies in Education: Film (3)
    - **EPSF 8040** Cultural Studies in Education: Gender (3)
    - **EPSF 8260** Sociology of Inner-City Children (3)
    - **EPSF 8270** Philosophy of Education (3)
    - **EPSF 8280** Anthropology of Education (3)
    - **EPSF 8310** Sociology of Education (3)
    - **EPSF 8320** Politics and Policy in Education (3)
    - **EPSF 8330** Globalization and Education Policy (3)
    - **EPSF 8340** History of American Education (3)
    - **EPSF 8350** Comparative Educational Systems (3)
    - **EPSF 8440** Foundations of Curriculum Development (3)
C. Electives (6)
   o The elective requirement is fulfilled by taking a minimum of 6 semester hours chosen from graduate courses in other program areas, departments, and/or colleges in the university.

Program total: minimum of 36 semester hours