

Overall GSS Goals and Outcomes

The GSS program, like many disciplines in the liberal arts, builds a number of intellectual skills that apply directly to a student's success as a citizen and as a professional, and that also enhance his or her personal life. These skills include:

- Critical thinking, problem solving, and synthesizing large amounts of information.
 - Students consider both original data and scholarly arguments in order to assess their value, credibility, inconsistencies, and contradictions. These skills, in turn, enhance the ability to recognize patterns, to evaluate and construct evidence-based arguments, and to develop novel solutions.
- The ability to communicate complex ideas clearly in both written and oral form.
- Depending on the course, students must also learn teamwork skills.

In addition, citizens must be highly adaptable in order to excel in a rapidly evolving marketplace and globalizing society. Over their lifetimes, our students will likely interact with people from an array of cultural backgrounds, hold a variety of jobs that require a wide range of skills, and need the ability to turn unforeseen challenges into opportunities. For these reasons, the GSS curriculum enables students to take courses that are both relevant to their specific career aspirations and that also foster:

- **Interdisciplinary Thought:** Learn to observe and find solutions from a diversity of analytical disciplines. These skills enable students to see issues through a variety of perspectives and to create relevant solutions in an ever-changing world.
- **Multi-cultural competence:** Develop social intelligence necessary to excel in a globalized world. The multi-disciplinary curriculum offers numerous frames of reference and promotes the ability to appreciate myriad cultural, ethnic, gender, and socio-economic perspectives.

For the educational objectives of specific tracks within GSS, see below:

Applied Economics, Business, and Society

This track offers courses from a variety of academic disciplines (e.g., Environmental Studies, Geography, History, Journalism, Philosophy, Women and Gender Studies, Political Science, and Sociology). Learning outcomes will, therefore, vary depending on the courses a student chooses. However, course requirements in Economics, Business Administration, and Mathematics will ensure that all students gain the following:

- Basic knowledge of microeconomics and macroeconomics: demand-supply analysis, elasticity measures, the effect of government regulations on behavior and market outcomes, the flow of national income, measuring economic growth and fluctuations, the role of money and banking, and monetary fiscal policies.
- Introduction to Mathematical statistics, including probability, hypothesis testing, data description and analysis, and confidence intervals.
- Introduction to the ways in which Business Administration studies the relationships among business owners, employees, consumers, and citizens, and how to use theoretical models to improve decision-making for people in each of these roles.
- Familiarity with how Business Administration uses accounting to understand a business' finances, transactions, organizations, and decisions.
- Use of interpretive models to analyze original data and formulate arguments based on the disciplinary standards of Economics, Business Administration, and Mathematics.

Crime, Law, and Society

This track offers courses from a variety of academic disciplines (e.g., Anthropology, Family Health Services, Geography, Women and Gender Studies, Journalism, Linguistics, Philosophy, and Psychology). Learning outcomes will, therefore, vary depending on the courses a student chooses. However, course requirements in Political Science, Sociology, and Ethnic Studies ensure that all students gain the following:

- Analytical concepts of political science concerning American political-legal systems.
- Introduction to the theories and analytical frameworks used by Ethnic Studies to investigate how race, gender, socio-economic status, and sexuality structure society and affect political-legal systems. Familiarity with ways in which individuals or groups challenge stereotypes and the status quo.
- Apply tools from Sociology to understand the links between institutions, social structures, individuals, and social action.
- Use quantitative and qualitative methods from a sociological perspective to understand personal experiences and social life.
- Use of interpretive models to analyze original data and formulate arguments based on the disciplinary standards of Political Science, Sociology, and Ethnic Studies

Globalization

This track offers courses from a variety of academic disciplines (e.g., Anthropology, Economics, Environmental Studies, Geology, History, International Studies, Journalism, Public Planning, Policy, and Management, Philosophy, and Women and Gender Studies). Learning outcomes will, therefore, vary depending on the courses a student chooses. However, course requirements in Geography, Political Science, and Sociology ensure that all students gain the following:

- Analytical concepts used in Geography to understand spatial patterns, natural phenomena, and their dynamic interrelationship with human social structures (i.e., political, cultural, social, and economic structures).
- Analytical concepts of political science used to analyze American politics and policy regarding environmental reform.
- Knowledge of tools from Sociology to understand the links between institutions, social structures, individuals, and social action.
- Use of quantitative and qualitative methods from a sociological perspective to understand personal experiences and social life.
- Use of interpretive models to analyze original data and formulate arguments based on the disciplinary standards of Geography, Political Science, and Sociology.

Teaching Track

The design of this track's curriculum serves to provide students with the coursework necessary to apply to UOTeach, a graduate program to obtain a license to teach middle or high school social studies. In addition, this track offers a variety of courses from a variety of academic disciplines (e.g., Geography, Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, and International Studies). Learning outcomes will, therefore, vary depending on the courses a student chooses. However, course requirements in History, Economics, and Political Science ensure that all students gain the following:

- General trends of US history as well as Western and/or non-Western history. Additionally, students will learn analytical techniques of History as a discipline, including the use of empirical data to interpret historical phenomena from multiple perspectives (e.g., based on culture, gender, geography, socio-economic class, etc.) and to reconcile contradictory explanations. Students will also learn to incorporate complex causation of events or conditions into a historical narrative.
- Basic knowledge of microeconomics and macroeconomics: demand-supply analysis, elasticity measures, the effect of government regulations on behavior and market outcomes, the flow of national income, measuring economic growth and fluctuations, the role of money and banking, and monetary fiscal policies.
- Depending on course choice, the following fundamental aspects of political science:
 - The workings of the American political system at the local, state, and national levels, including political parties, elections, and social movements.

- The nature of international political systems, conflicts, and cooperation.
 - The major political concepts of the Western tradition such as justice, natural law, and obligation.
- Use interpretive models to analyze original data and formulate arguments based on the disciplinary standards of History, Economics, and Political Science.