

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT****Bachelor of Education (BEd) and Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSocSc)**

This professional double degree curriculum for initial liberal studies teacher education covers 5 years of full-time study. Students are required to complete 300 credits during the regular 10 semesters.

This degree curriculum consists of two major components, viz. a Social Sciences Major programme chosen by students and a Professional Core (Liberal Studies Education) programme. The latter programme comprises Educational Studies and Pedagogy courses, and Professional Practicum that are integrated and together fulfill the Education Bureau's (EDB) requirements as a relevant teacher training for professional recognition of Liberal Studies teachers.

A majority of the courses in the two programmes are 6-credit courses but there are a few 12-credit courses. Students are required to fulfill the respective capstone requirements in the BSocSc degree curriculum (6 credits) and the BEd degree curriculum (24 credits).

BSocSc Degree Curriculum

The Bachelor of Social Sciences curriculum consists of broadly fourteen different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. The majority of courses are 6-credit courses, but we also have a small number of 12-credit courses. Although we use 150 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) as the norm for a 6-credit course, the contact hours and output requirements for different types of courses vary according to the learning modes employed. Normally, the contact hour for a standard 6-credit course is ranging from 30 to 39 hours.

1. Introductory courses (6 credits)

These first-year courses introduce students to different social science disciplines in order to provide them with a broad social science education before students choose their programme majors at the end of their first year of studies. Teaching normally takes the form of one 2-hour lecture and one 1-hour tutorial or seminar each week throughout a regular 13-week semester. Assessments are conducted by way of essays, projects, presentations (totaling about 5,000 words) and/or a final examination (40-100% coursework, 0-60% exam).

2. Compulsory, core and elective disciplinary courses (6 credits)

The Bachelor of Social Sciences curriculum is based primarily upon courses offered by the programme majors or multidisciplinary majors and minors. Different kinds of standard 6-credit courses are offered either as core courses or as electives in the programme majors

or multidisciplinary majors and minors. Teaching normally takes the form of one 2-hour lecture and one 1-hour tutorial or seminar each week throughout a regular 13-week semester. Assessments are conducted by way of essays, projects, presentations (totaling about 5,000 words) and/or a final examination (40-100% coursework, 0-60% exam).

3. *Thematic courses (6 credits)*

These courses focus on thematic contents and introduce subject-specific skills. They are taught by a combination of lectures (24 hours), tutorials, seminars, and fieldwork-based practicals. Assessment is generally by means of end-of-semester examination and a variety of coursework assignments with output not exceeding 3,000 words (0-60% exam, 40-100% coursework).

4. *Workshop/Laboratory courses (6 credits)*

These courses aim at introducing and enriching the students' discipline-specific skills. They are taught by laboratory-based practicals, supplemented by lectures and field visits. Assessment is by end-of-semester examination and practical assignments with output not exceeding 3,000 words (40% exam, 60% coursework).

5. *Advanced laboratory courses (6 credits)*

In the Advanced laboratory courses, instructors apply the students' research methods training to a substantive area of Psychological research. Students read primary source research articles, present seminars to the class, and conduct research projects or write research proposals. In addition, students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Enrolment is capped at 25-30 students. Assessment is achieved through performance in class discussions, laboratory reports/proposals (1,500-2,500 words), seminar performance, quizzes and tests (100% coursework).

6. *Overseas field trip courses (6 credits)*

Fieldwork is an integral part of a geographer's training and all students majoring in Geography must register for the overseas field trip course and participate in a two-week duration course in an overseas country before they proceed to their final year of study. Assessment is by means of a written report (3,500 words) based on a selected field topic with linkage to the advanced courses taken (100% coursework).

7. *Research methodology courses (6 credits)*

The aims of these courses are to provide students with basic background in quantitative and qualitative research design and data analysis. The logic of interpretation of findings and scientific explanation, the merits and limitations of quantitative and qualitative approaches to the study. Teaching normally takes the form of a 3-hour lecture each week throughout a regular 13-week semester. Assessment is by various methods including regular homework, individual or group project with powerpoint presentation in about 1,000 words, term paper in about 4,000 words, totaling about 5,000 words, and mid-term and final tests (100% coursework).

8. Research courses (6 and 12 credits)

The research courses aim to provide students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interests under the supervision of a teacher. Contact hours are minimal (6-12 hours for a 6-credit course and 12–18 hours for a 12-credit course) as students are actively engaged in individual research. Assessment takes the form of research essay/written report of about 5,000 words and oral presentation for a 6-credit course, or a dissertation (10,000 words) and oral presentation for a 12-credit course (100% coursework).

Students may also learn to do research as an intern in ongoing empirical research project, or conduct an independent and empirical investigation on a specific issue in political science under a teacher's supervision in the Department of Politics and Public Administration. Students are required to meet individually with the supervisor (around 2 hours per week), read relevant theoretical and empirical articles, participate in (ongoing) empirical research project, and write a research report. The students are expected to spend at least 6 hours per week on the research project. Assessment takes the form of a research report which will be around 5,000 words (100% coursework).

9. Internship (12 credits)

These courses enable students to work and learn in the professional world and local communities. They enable students to apply what they have learned from regular classes at the University and to identify and analyze problems in a local community or work place. Students participating in these courses can reflect upon how concepts learned in class can help in solving social problems, analyzing social and policy issues, and promoting social innovation in Hong Kong and beyond. Assessment is normally based upon performance in work placement (240 hours of work), reflective journal and literature review (totaling about 2,500 words), integrated essay (4,000 words) and/or presentation (100% coursework). Total learning activities: 300 hours

10. Research internship (6 credits)

Students may enrol in an internship to gain experience in a psychological research laboratory. Students spend 10-12 hours per week assisting various research activities, and meet regularly with the instructor to discuss different aspects of the research that they are engaged in. Assessment takes the form of one to two written reports (1500-2500 words) and supervisor's assessment of the quality of research assistance (100% coursework).

11. Thesis (12 credits)

This course may be taken by students who have demonstrated strong academic performance in Psychology and Politics and Public Administration programmes. Thesis writing will last for two semesters, for a total of 12 credits. Students must design an empirical research study, collect and analyse data, and write a formal thesis at about 10,000 words. While the students are expected to take the initiative to conduct the research, the teacher will actively supervise the research and monitor the students' progress. Students receive about 30 contact hours of individual supervision (100% coursework).

12. Independent study in Psychology (12 credits)

The independent study may be taken by students who are not writing a thesis. Students require the permission of the Head of Department to take the course. It is restricted to students who have a clear plan for a research study. Students take the independent study over two semesters, for a total of 12 credits. Students must design an empirical research study, collect and analyse data, and write a research report (9,000-10,000 words). Students receive individual supervision (100% coursework).

13. Seminar courses (6 credits)

These courses require students to read primary source research articles, present seminars to the class, and conduct research projects or write research proposals. In addition, students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Enrolment for each course is generally about 25-30 students. Assessments are achieved through participation in class discussions, written reports/proposals (1,000-5,000 words), seminar performances, and/or a final examination (50-100% coursework, 0-50% exam).

14. Summer institutes (12 credits)

Summer institutes are designed to provide students with platforms to engage in cross-cultural learning and enrich their international learning experiences. Students participating in these 4-week summer programmes will be heavily involved in intensive learning activities through academic lectures and seminars, professional and site visits and cultural activities. Assessment includes an essay (3,000 words), final research project (4,000 words) and/or performance in group and class discussions (100% coursework).

BEd Degree Curriculum

The BEd degree curriculum comprises a 120-credit Professional Core (Liberal Studies Education) programme with integrated, pedagogy, pedagogical content knowledge and educational studies courses and professional practicum which are integrated and together fulfill the Education Bureau's (EDB) requirements as a relevant teacher training for professional recognition of Liberal Studies teachers. This component will not be offered separately to students of other curricula. All courses are 6-credit courses whereas two blocks of the professional practicum in years 4 and 5 are 12 credits each.

Courses normally involve classroom contact hours, online interaction, reading, studying, researching & writing assignments or preparing for examinations / tests. Timetabled classroom contact time and study load for various courses are as follows:

- A 6-credit course: 24 contact hours, 120 to 150 hours of study load
- A 6-credit practicum course: 120 to 150 hours of study load
- A 12-credit practicum course: 240 to 300 hours of study load

Assessment

Where assessment is done by written assignment, a 6-credit course may have one to three assessment tasks, totaling 3,000-4,000 words, or equivalent for non-essay tasks. All courses adopt 100% continuous assessment by diverse forms of coursework.

1. Integrated courses (6 credits)

These courses focus on a set of concrete local educational, classroom and school issues/problems to contextualize the theoretical topics in the courses and to help students to make connection between theories and issues. Joint assignments require students to make connections between pedagogical, psychological and sociological theories and some of the concrete issues/problems both inside and outside the classroom. All courses are 6-credit courses with 24 contact hours. A range of assessment tasks will be used which include issue-based problem-solving work, Individual Education Plan (IEP), reflective essay paper, interactive workshop, field study, NGO/school visit, online forum discussion, self-study, oral presentation and essay.

2. Educational studies courses (6 credits)

These courses focus on the philosophical, sociological and psychological foundations of education. All courses are 6-credit courses with 24 contact hours. These courses will employ a range of teaching and learning activities, and assessment tasks. They include analysis of selected issues, student presentation, and/or discussion in class and e-forum.

3. Pedagogy and Pedagogical Content Knowledge courses (6 credits)

These courses focus on the methods and practices of teaching, encouraging students to become critically reflective education professionals. Individual lecturers decide the mode of assessment which is often related to the school-based professional practicum. All courses are 6-credit courses with 24 contact hours. A range of assessment tasks will be used which may include the following: in-class presentations, participation in online

discussion tasks and a reflective assignment which requires students to examine their own pedagogic content knowledge and its impact on their teaching practice.

4. Professional Practicum courses (6 or 12 credits)

These are professional practicum blocks which enable students to develop professional teaching competencies within the school environment. The Years 3 to 5 courses are blocks of supervised teaching practice of 3 weeks in Year 3 (120 – 150 hours of learning) and 10 weeks each in Years 4 and 5 (240 – 300 hours of learning each) with proportional numbers of credits allocated. The Years 4 and 5 courses are capstone requirements. Learning activities may include observing and assisting the mentor, supervised teaching practice, lesson planning, self-study, critical self-reflections and conducting education-related inquiry study. The overall performance of students will be continuously assessed through various tasks such as post-supervision reflective reports, classroom teaching appraisals and lesson observation reports, with a total written output of 2,000 to 2,500 words for the 6-credit course and 6,000 to 8,000 words for the 12-credit courses.

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