

Social Studies Endorsement Essay

Hello! If you are reading this, you are evaluating my fitness for the Social Studies endorsement. However, my academic work alone does not fully cover my experience in the social sciences. For that, you would need to examine my Curriculum Vitae, which I attached to my application rather than a resume. On page four of that document, you will see the twenty-six classes I've taught in the past two years as a public health professor.

Public health as a profession straddles medicine, statistics, and social sciences. In order to encourage people to engage in health behaviors, you have to understand how they make decisions. Why does a person smoke cigarettes, refused to be vaccinated, or have unprotected sex? Addressing internal and external barriers to healthy behaviors is a core part of the field which I have either practiced or taught in for nearly 20 years.

Additional to my coursework and public health career, I spent four years on active duty in the Air Force. I learned a lot about how the military operates. During this time I deployed to Bosnia and Kuwait, spending months in those countries and giving me insight on their culture.

I believe the economy is core to both health and understanding behavior. In high school, I was the state Economics champion (for DECA) and to this day listen to a variety of economic podcasts. The Federal Reserve Board of Governors have a huge impact on economic policy that trickles down to people's lives...from mortgage rates to whether companies choose to fill jobs. As I write this, a strike at Boeing hits to the heart of this issue...the balance between corporate profits and worker pay.

That said, it appears that on paper I am a little weak in US History. However, I feel I have a good grasp on US history, from early colonization through the post-restoration period. I would be happy to test out of the subject given the choice, whether through CLEP or classes once the program begins.