MSE—Social Studies
Assessment Plan

Goals:
The graduates will be able to:

1) demonstrate a knowledge of the methodologies of the social sciences in general and highly proficient knowledge of one social science methodology;
2) analyze issues and problems using social science content knowledge and research skills;
3) demonstrate the skill to integrate content knowledge into age and grade appropriate teaching;
4) prepare lesson plans from several grade levels, and social science content areas.

Identification of Where Objective are Being Achieved:
Broad Field Social Studies encompasses seven disciplines and students develop their programs in conjunction with their advisors. As a result, picking out courses in which the objective is being achieved would be laborious because nearly every course offered would be an option. The program asserts that any course taught will include a research project and/or a curriculum project. At the end of the program the student will have met and demonstrated the goals.

Assessment Tools:
The program will use both indirect and direct methods of assessing the program.

1) The graduates will be asked to reflect on their experience in the program through a written reflection, an exit interview, and periodic surveys. The surveys will be conducted after graduation. (indirect)
2) The graduate will be required to complete a portfolio (note such portfolios are currently required for licensure and the program is taking advantage of both existing material as well as program specific material in the portfolio.).
   a. Two research based writing projects which document knowledge of methodology, content, and analysis. (meets goals 1 and 2)
   b. Two curriculum projects from different grade levels. (meets goals 3 and 4)
   c. A tape of classroom teaching—one class. (meets goals 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Assessment Schedule:
The BFSS Steering Committee will review the collected information every years. The information will be collected as each person completes the program. The survey data
will be collected periodically but no less often than the program review. Improvements in the program will be discussed and implemented after each two year review.

Data Presentation and Discussion Process:
The program director will provide a summary of the assessment measures for the committee as well as make the raw material available for committee review. The discussion will take place at a special annual meeting of the Steering Committee.

Implementation of Revisions:
The committee will discuss the measures and make decisions and recommendations for improvement. In some cases the recommendations may require additional approval from departments or colleges. The director and committee will present the recommendations to those bodies as needed.

Results Availability:
The results will be stored in the BFSS director’s files in the History and Philosophy Dept. The result will be available to students through the minutes of the Steering Committee which are also on file. Every seven years the summary of three cycles of assessment will be available in the report to the Review Committee.