WHAT IS: SOCIAL SCIENCE

Our science is world-changing, applicable and, above all, transformative.

The students, staff, faculty and alumni of the College of Social Science work every day to make our world a better place. From studying how sleep affects our brains to how policies affect our communities to how greenhouse gases affect our planet, social scientists seek to understand and solve the world’s toughest problems.

STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

• Conduct world-class research
• Engage in service learning
• Take classes all around the globe
• Test out the job market with an internship

WHAT CAN I EXPECT: SOCIAL SCIENCE

AREAS OF STUDY

04 Anthropology
06 Chicano/Latino Studies
08 Center for Integrative Studies
10 Criminal Justice
12 Economics
14 Geography, Environment, and Spatial Studies
16 History
18 Human Development and Family Studies
20 Human Resources and Labor Relations
22 Political Science
24 Psychology
26 Social Work
28 Sociology
30 Urban and Regional Planning
32 STUDENT GROUPS & ASSOCIATIONS
34 ADVISING & AFFAIRS
WHAT IS: ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology is the study of humanity’s cultural and biological diversity across time and space. It is an all-embracing discipline—it captures a variety of interests.

Anthropology has several subfields, including:

- **Biological** anthropology, which includes forensic anthropology, bioarchaeology, and human biology
- **Archaeology**
- **Socio-cultural** anthropology
- **Medical** anthropology
- **Linguistic** anthropology

WHAT CAN I DO WITH: ANTHROPOLOGY

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

- Professor at college/university
- Forensic scientist, forensic anthropologist
- Archaeologist, museum director, museum curator, collections manager
- Environmental manager
- Clinical physician

WHERE OUR GRADUATES WORK

- Universities and colleges around the world
- Peace Corps
- Museums
- Health care facilities
- Nonprofit organizations

HANDS-ON Fieldschools

- Campus Archaeology Program Fieldschool
- Maya Culture History Fieldschool
- Ethnographic fieldwork methods

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Anthropology (Minor | BA | BS)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Anthropology (MA | PhD)
WHAT IS:
CHICANO/LATINO STUDIES

Chicano/Latino Studies (CLS) offers curriculum that centers the experiences and contributions of Chicanos and Latinos in the United States.

- We have small classes, individual mentoring, and a close academic community.
- Our students and faculty are invested in improving their communities.
- Our Faculty and students engage in interdisciplinary work across units and colleges.

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Chicano/Latino Studies (Minor)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Chicano/Latino Studies (Grad Certificate | PhD)

WHAT CAN I DO WITH:
CHICANO/LATINO STUDIES

86% WILL START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM

CLS MINOR COMPLEMENTS THOSE PURSUING CAREERS IN:

Social Work
Education
Government
Businesses that serve mixed ethnic communities

WHERE OUR GRADUATES WORK

MSU College of Social Science
YMCA of Metro Lansing
Samaritas Refugee Youth Services
MI Senate
Teach for America
WHAT IS: CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The Global and International Studies in Social Science (GLIS) major provides students with breadth in social science foundational courses combined with in-depth knowledge in a world region or global topic.

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Interdisciplinary Studies integrates courses from departments and professional schools across campus to build in-depth, cohesive, thematic programs of study (concentrations), which are grounded in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences.

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Global and International Studies (BA)

Social Science Education (BA)

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Development Specialist
Project Coordinator
Program Assistant
Sales and Marketing Assistant
Legislative Aid
Digital Strategy Associate

WHERE OUR GRADUATES WORK

Michigan Community Health Network
Peace Corps
American International Foods
International Rescue Committee
Consumer’s Energy

100% WILL START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM
WHAT IS: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Criminal justice is designed to prepare students for entry level positions in public and private agencies identified with criminal justice administration. Such agencies apprehend offenders, adjudicate alleged offenses, redirect emergent criminal careers, and promote industrial and commercial security. Such agencies also encourage and emphasize community responsibility for the success of their programs. We have the oldest degree-granting Criminal Justice program in the nation.

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Criminal Justice ( BA )
Law, Justice and Public Policy ( Minor )
Security Management ( Minor )

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Criminal Justice ( MS | PhD )
Forensic Science ( MS )
Law Enforcement Intelligence and Analysis ( MS )

WHAT CAN I DO WITH: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

- Special Agent
- Crime/Intel Analyst
- Police Officer
- Probation Officer
- Investigator
- Security Specialist
- Youth Specialist

WORLD-CLASS Faculty Research

AMONG TOP RESEARCHERS FOR

- Gun Violence
- Cybercrime
- Counter-Terrorism
- Anti-Counterfeiting & Protection
- Juvenile Justice

WHERE OUR GRADUATES WORK

- FBI
- Secret Service
- State Government
- Police Agencies
- General Motors

ONLINE GRADUATE PROGRAM

TH RANKED Nationally
US News & World Report
WHAT IS: ECONOMICS

Economics is the study of how various entities make choices with scarce resources. Microeconomics focuses on the choices made by individuals and firms, and macroeconomics looks at the behavior of the economy as a whole. The study of economics is one of the most practical and adaptable disciplines. Those who focus on it gain a broad skill-set that can be utilized in complex and changing environments, and that can contribute to the understanding and improvement of lives at the individual, group, organizational, and societal level.

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

- Economics (Minor | BA | BS)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Economics (PhD | Teacher Certificate)

AMONG TOP 10 HIGHEST PAYING majors

CNBC, 2019

WHAT CAN I DO WITH: ECONOMICS

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

- Financial Analyst
- Legislative Director
- Research Director
- Data Analyst
- Portfolio Manager
- Economic Analyst

WHERE OUR GRADUATES WORK

- Federal Reserve Bank of New York
- JP Morgan Asset Management
- US Department of Education

97% WILL START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM

WILL START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM

WILL START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM

WILL START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM

WILL START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM

AMONG TOP 10 HIGHEST PAYING majors

CNBC, 2019

AMONG TOP 10 HIGHEST PAYING majors

CNBC, 2019

AMONG TOP 10 HIGHEST PAYING majors

CNBC, 2019

AMONG TOP 10 HIGHEST PAYING majors

CNBC, 2019
WHAT IS:
GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, & SPATIAL SCIENCES

The discipline of geography, as the study of place and space, concerns itself with the analysis and explanation of the occurrence, distribution, and interrelationships of physical and cultural patterns on the earth’s surface. The discipline is also interested in how the earth’s physical and human landscapes change over time. Geography can be classified both as a social science and a natural science as it examines human beings and their environment and serves as a bridge between the physical and cultural worlds.

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS
Economic Geography (BS)
Environment and Health (Minor)
Environmental Geography (BS)
Geographic Information Science (Minor | BS)
Geography (Minor)
Human Geography (BA)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS
Geography (MS | PhD | Teacher Certificate)

WHAT CAN I DO WITH:
GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, & SPATIAL SCIENCES

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY
Environmental Economist
Climatologist
Cartographer
Soil Conservationist
Location Analyst
Urban Planner

WHERE OUR GRADUATES WORK
OnStar
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Global Mapping Strategies
GeoNexus
Peace Corps

HANDS-ON Field Experience
- Glacial Landscapes in Michigan
- River Systems in Michigan
- Urban Geography in Detroit
- Prehistoric Environmental Change in the Great Lakes Region

College of Social Science
geo.msu.edu
WHAT IS: HISTORY

All courses in history have the goal of helping students learn how to think and write historically in a critical manner. History courses emphasize learning how to identify viewpoints, gather and organize information, present conclusions in essays and on the internet, distinguish facts from interpretations, recognize historical relationships and patterns, and appreciate the relevance of historical insight to the understanding of current events and problems.

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Defense Studies and Leadership (Minor)
Global History (BA)
History (Minor | BA)
History Education (BA)
The City: Environment, Design, and Society (Minor)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

American Studies (Grad Certificate)
History (PhD | Teacher Certificate)

AFRICAN HISTORY GRADUATE PROGRAM

#1 RANKED Nationally
US News & World Report

WHAT CAN I DO WITH: HISTORY

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Teacher
Librarian
Journalist
Museum Curator
Advisors

WHERE OUR GRADUATES WORK

Museums
Libraries
State Government
Education
News Media

94% WILL START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM
WHAT IS:
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY STUDIES

Areas of study include child development, youth development, lifespan human development and family diversity, family community services, and couple and family therapy. Knowledge of basic research and the application of research to improving the lives of individuals in the context of the family, the community, and policy are emphasized. Practical experiences in real-world settings are incorporated into all areas of study. The Child Development Laboratory and the Couple and Family Therapy Clinic are part of the department.

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS
Child Development (BA)
Early Care and Education (BA)
Human Development and Family Studies (BA | BS)
Youth and Society (Minor)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS
Child Development (MS)
Early Childhood-General and Special Education (Teacher Certificate)
Family Community Services (MA)
Human Development and Family Studies (MS | PhD)
Youth Development (MA | Grad Certificate)
Youth Program Management and Evaluation (Grad Certificate)

WHAT CAN I DO WITH:
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY STUDIES

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY
Case Worker
Family Advocate
Head Start Teacher
Social Service Liaison
Abuse Prevention Counselor

WHERE OUR GRADUATES WORK
Business
Communications
Policy
Health Care
Education
Social Service

95% WILL START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM
WHAT IS: HUMAN RESOURCES & LABOR RELATIONS

Through its research and educational programs, the School of Human Resources and Labor Relations advances knowledge and understanding of human resources and labor-relations within a global context. Offering a comprehensive understanding of the employment relationship, the program helps students develop critical thinking skills and learn essential problem-solving, social, emotional, and entrepreneurial skills for advancing the well-being and success of working people, organizations and communities worldwide.

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS
- Human Capital and Society (BA)
- Leadership of Organizations (Minor)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS
- Human Resources and Labor Relations (MHRLR | PhD)

WHAT CAN I DO WITH: HUMAN RESOURCES & LABOR RELATIONS

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY
- Human Resources Coordinator
- Talent Specialist/Recruiter
- Workforce Development Specialist
- Staffing Specialist

WHERE OUR GRADUATES WORK
- Citi Bank
- Nestle
- Lear
- Fiat Chrysler
- Beaumont Health

95% WILL START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM
WHAT IS: POLITICAL SCIENCE

As a science, political science is concerned with theories, research methods, and facts as they relate to understanding political processes and phenomena. In particular, political science studies the distribution of power in groups, parties, institutions, governments, and international organizations. As a field of study, political science asks who has power, how did they get it, and why the exercise of power benefits some more than others. On both the American and international stages, political science prepares students to confront vital issues, raise critical perspectives, and explore new methodologies in the study of the fundamental concepts of power and change.

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Political Science - General (BA)
Political Science - Prelaw (BA)
Public Policy (BA)
World Politics (BA)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Political Science - General (PhD | Teacher Certificate)
Public Policy (MPP)

WHAT CAN I DO WITH: POLITICAL SCIENCE

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Policy Analyst
Political Consultant
Political Correspondent
Intelligence Agent
International Market Researcher

WHERE OUR GRADUATES WORK

ACLU of Lansing
Michigan Senate Majority Legal Counsel
Gallagher Law Firm
Clean Water Action
Public Affairs Associates

EARN BOTH DEGREES IN 5 YEARS
Public Policy (BA | MPP)

EARN BOTH DEGREES IN 6 YEARS
Political Science - Prelaw (BA)
Law Degree (College of Law)

95% WILL START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM
WHAT IS: PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is a science concerned with thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Psychologists study many topics including: how people perceive the world with their five senses; how people learn (and forget); how people relate to each other; how people develop their personalities; how people interpret and respond to social conditions; how organizations function; how to classify and understand the origins of psychopathology; how to intervene and treat psychological problems; how communities support health and well-being; and how non-human animal models can be used to understand human behavior.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH: PSYCHOLOGY

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

- Case Manager
- Youth Advocate
- Behavioral Health Technician
- Human Resource Professional
- Substance Abuse Counselor

WHERE OUR GRADUATES WORK

- Business
- Sales
- Insurance
- Health Care
- Education
- Public Sector

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

- Psychology (BA | BS)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Program Evaluation (MA | Grad Certificate)
- Psychology (PhD | Teacher Certificate)

ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

#1 RANKED Nationally
US News & World Report

95% WILL START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM
WHAT IS: SOCIAL WORK

Social work is a profession that focuses on helping vulnerable and oppressed people improve their lives. Social work uses a wide range of approaches toward this end, with the intent of improving both personal life circumstances as well as the broader institutions and social forces that affect these populations. Our field stresses the interaction between the person and the person’s environment as we develop solutions. Social work is guided by a code of ethics that encompasses values fundamental to our practice, such as respect for diversity, self-determination, empowerment, and focus on the most vulnerable members of society.

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Human Behavior and Social Services (Minor)
Social Work (BA)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Program Evaluation (MA | Grad Certificate)
Social Work (PhD)
Clinical Social Work Concentration (MSW)
Organization and Community Leadership Concentration (MSW)

BASW CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Social Work with Global Populations
Child Welfare
Law and Policy in Social Work
Social Work with Children, Youth and Families
Health and Aging Services
Non Profit Leadership in Social Work

WHAT CAN I DO WITH: SOCIAL WORK

95% WILL START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Hospital Liaison
Youth Advocate
Behavioral Health Technician
Family Case Managers
Child Protective Services Worker

WHERE OUR GRADUATES WORK

American Red Cross
Boys and Girls Club
Judicial Courts
Teach for America
United Way

College of Social Science
socialwork.msu.edu
WHAT IS: SOCIOLOGY

MSU sociologists develop and apply leading theoretical frameworks, rigorously employ a diversity of methodological approaches, and use foundational and cutting-edge analytical techniques. In the process, MSU sociologists not only contribute significantly to the disciplinary core, but they also extend disciplinary influence by advancing its frontiers.

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS
Sociology (Minor | BA | BS)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS
Sociology (PhD)

WHAT CAN I DO WITH: SOCIOLOGY

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY
Social Services Directors
Youth Advocate
Behavioral Health Technician
Family Case Managers
Community Account Managers

WHERE OUR GRADUATES WORK
American Red Cross
Turning Point Youth Center
US AmeriCorps VISTA
Teach for America
CBI Rehabilitation Services

94% WILL START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM
WHAT IS:
URBAN & REGIONAL PLANNING

The School of Planning, Design and Construction uniquely unites four built environment disciplines to foster synergistic learning and collaboration: construction management, interior design, landscape architecture and urban and regional planning. The academic programs are accredited and produce career-ready graduates. Students work on real-world, cross-discipline projects and activities. The faculty cross-collaborate on pressing built environment issues, delivering timely and crucial sustainable research and outreach. The School of Planning, Design and Construction is administered jointly by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the College of Social Science.

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Urban and Regional Planning (BS)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Urban and Regional Planning (MURP)

WHAT CAN I DO WITH:
URBAN & REGIONAL PLANNING

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Economic Development Specialist
Planning and Zoning Administrator
Urban Planner
Transportation Planner

WHERE OUR GRADUATES WORK

Michigan Department of Transportation
US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

90% WILL START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM
GET INVOLVED: 
STUDENT GROUPS & ASSOCIATIONS

ANTHROPOLOGY
Undergraduate Anthropology Club
Graduate Student Association in Anthropology

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Cold Case Unit
American Criminal Justice Association
National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice
National Criminal Justice Honor Society

ECONOMICS
Econ Scholars
Michigan State Student Economics Association
Women and Minorities in Economics

GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, AND SPATIAL STUDIES
GEOClub
The International Geographic Honor Society
Advancing Geography Through Diversity Program
Supporting Women in Geography

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES
HDFS Helping Hands Club

POLITICAL SCIENCE
Political Science Scholars

PSYCHOLOGY
Psychology Club
International Honor Society in Psychology
Psychology Scholars Program

SOCIAL WORK
Association of Black Social Workers
Phi Alpha Honor Society
Student Organization of Latino Social Workers
BASiW Undergraduate Advisory Board
Student Advocates for Basic Needs Security Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee

SOCIOLOGY
Undergraduate Sociological Association

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING
American Planning Association
Michigan Association of Planning
Urban & Regional Planning Student Association

LINKING STUDENTS & ALUMNI

Women’s Leadership Institute
Governor Jim Blanchard Public Service Forum
WHO I SHOULD CONTACT: ADVISORS

The College of Social Science Office of Student Affairs and Services is a central source of information and assistance for students in all departments and schools in the College. Academic Specialists are available to answer questions concerning College and University programs such as study abroad and internship preparation, to interpret college requirements, to explain academic policies and procedures, and to refer students to appropriate resources across the University. Additionally, students experiencing difficulties are encouraged to come to this office for assistance.

The Office of Student Affairs is here to help! Our knowledgeable staff can assist with academic matters, point to resources, and answer questions. We are located in 201 Berkey Hall.

VIEW THE LIST OF ADVISORS
socialscience.msu.edu/advising
OUR SCIENCE TRANSFORMS THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE
AND INSPIRES LEADERS

College of Social Science
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

socialscience.msu.edu

#MSUSocialScience