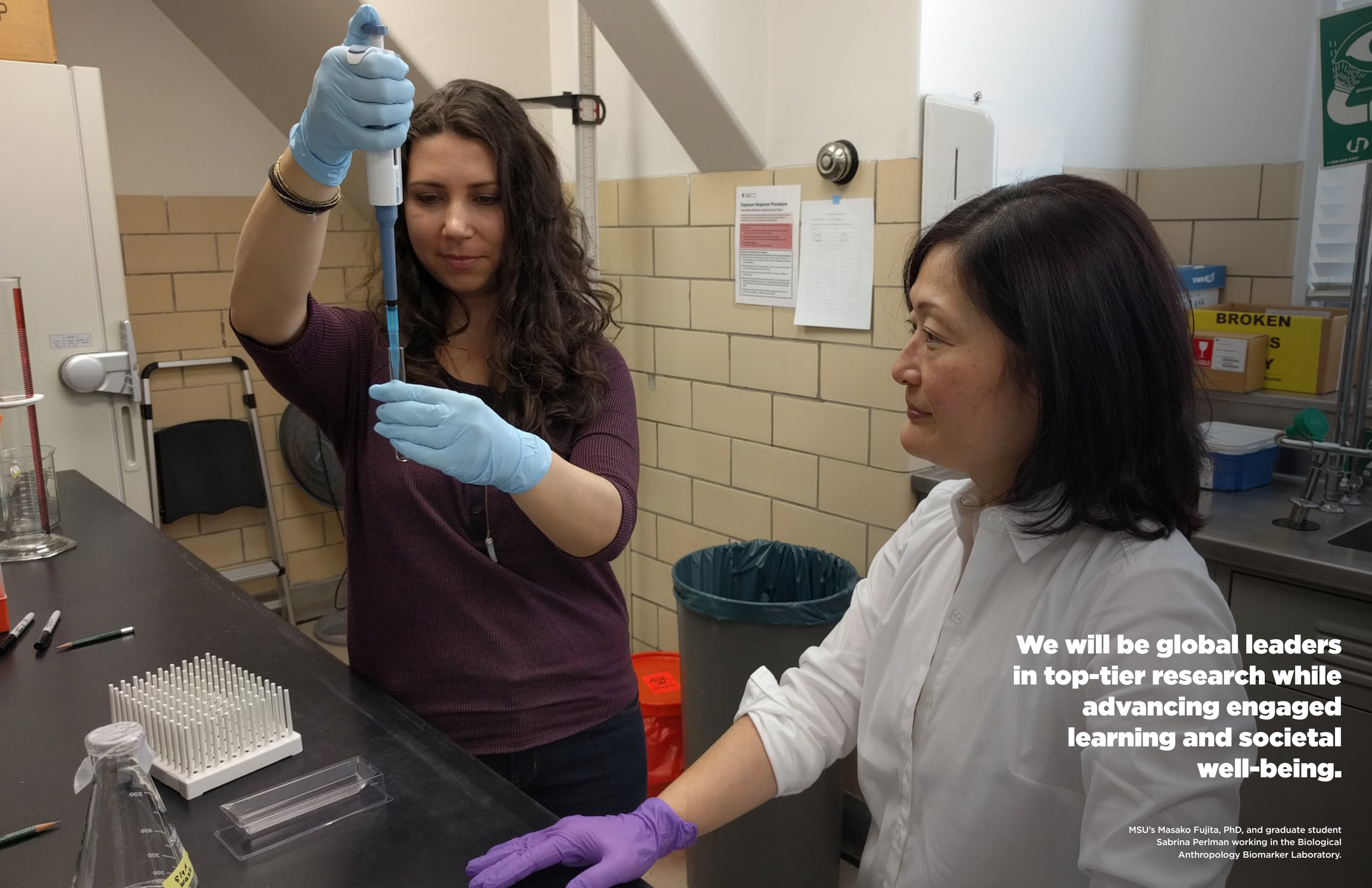


THE
SOCIAL SCIENTIST'S
GUIDE





**We will be global leaders
in top-tier research while
advancing engaged
learning and societal
well-being.**

MSU's Masako Fujita, PhD, and graduate student
Sabrina Perlman working in the Biological
Anthropology Biomarker Laboratory.

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

*Figures contained within are based on 2020 graduate outcomes data (Employed Full-Time, Continuing Education, Not Seeking, Military Service, and Volunteer) and do not guarantee future outcomes.



WHAT CAN I EXPECT: SOCIAL SCIENCE

AREAS OF STUDY

- 5 Anthropology
- 6 Chicano/Latino Studies
- 7 Criminal Justice
- 8 Economics
- 9 Geography, Environment, and Spatial Studies
- 10 History
- 11 Human Development and Family Studies
- 12 Human Resources and Labor Relations
- 13 Integrative Studies
- 14 Political Science
- 15 Psychology
- 16 Social Work
- 17 Sociology
- 18 Urban and Regional Planning

STUDENT GROUPS & ASSOCIATIONS

ADVISING & STUDENT 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

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Anthropology ([Minor](#) | [BA](#) | [BS](#))

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Anthropology ([PhD](#))



85% START A
**FULL-TIME POSITION OR
GRADUATE PROGRAM***

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Archivist
Field Technician
Research Coordinator
Field Archaeologist
Data Transcriber
Curator

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

Universities and colleges
around the world
Peace Corps
Museums
Healthcare facilities
Nonprofit organizations

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. The department offers small classes, individual mentoring, and a close academic community. Students and faculty are invested in improving their communities while engaging in interdisciplinary work across units and colleges.

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Chicano/Latino Studies ([Minor](#))

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Chicano/Latino Studies ([Grad Certificate](#) | [PhD](#))



86% 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 SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

MSU College of Social Science
YMCA of Metro Lansing
Samaritas Refugee Youth Services
MI Senate
Teach for America



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.

ONLINE GRADUATE PROGRAM

5TH RANKED
Nationally
US News & World Report

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)



90% START A
FULL-TIME POSITION OR
GRADUATE PROGRAM*

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

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

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

FBI
Secret Service
State Government
Police Agencies
General Motors

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.

AMONG TOP 10
HIGHEST PAYING
majors
CNBC, 2019

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Economics (Minor | BA | BS)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Economics (PhD | Teacher Certificate)



92% START A
FULL-TIME POSITION OR
GRADUATE PROGRAM*

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Financial Analyst
Data Analyst
Business Development Officer
Legal Assistant
Account Manager
Underwriter

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

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



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)



83% START A
FULL-TIME POSITION OR
GRADUATE PROGRAM*

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Environmental Economist
Climatologist
Cartographer
Soil Conservationist
Location Analyst
Urban Planner
GIS Technician

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

OnStar
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources
Global Mapping Strategies
GeoNexus
Peace Corps

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.

AFRICAN HISTORY GRADUATE PROGRAM

#3 RANKED
Nationally
US News & World Report

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

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

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

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



89% START A
FULL-TIME POSITION OR
GRADUATE PROGRAM*

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Librarian
Journalist
Museum Curator
Paralegal
Project Manager
Data Analyst

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

Museums
Libraries
State Government
Education
News Media



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: Birth to Kindergarten and Special Education ([BA](#))

Early Care and Education ([BA](#))

Human Development and Family Studies ([BA](#) | [BS](#))

Resource Management from the Individual, Family, and Societal Perspective ([Minor](#))

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](#))



94% START A
**FULL-TIME POSITION OR
GRADUATE PROGRAM***

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Counseling
Health Professions
Human Services Organizations
Elementary Teacher
Preschool Teacher
Administrator in Education Setting

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

Business
Communications
Policy
Health Care
Education
Social Service

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](#))



89% START A
**FULL-TIME POSITION OR
GRADUATE PROGRAM***

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Human Resources Coordinator
Talent Specialist/Recruiter
Workforce Development Specialist
Staffing Specialist

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

Citi Bank
Nestle
Lear
Fiat Chrysler
Beaumont Health



WHAT IS: 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.

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Global and International Studies ([BA](#))

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

Interdisciplinary Studies ([BA](#) | [BS](#))

Social Science Education ([BA](#))



93% START A
**FULL-TIME POSITION OR
GRADUATE PROGRAM***

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

- Development Specialist
- Project Coordinator
- Community Health Educator
- Sales and Marketing Assistant
- Legislative Aide
- Digital Strategy Associate

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

- Michigan Community Health Network
- Peace Corps
- American International Foods
- International Rescue Committee
- Consumers Energy

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.

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](#))

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](#))



85% START A
**FULL-TIME POSITION OR
GRADUATE PROGRAM***

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

- Law Clerk
- Legislative Aid
- Paralegal
- Field Organizer
- Research Analyst

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

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



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.

ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

#**2** **RANKED**
Nationally
US News & World Report

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Psychology ([BA](#) | [BS](#))

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Program Evaluation ([MA](#) | [Grad Certificate](#))

Psychology ([PhD](#) | [Teacher Certificate](#))



93% START A
FULL-TIME POSITION OR
GRADUATE PROGRAM*

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

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

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

Business
Sales
Insurance
Health Care
Education
Public Sector

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.

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

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](#))



98% 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 SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

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



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](#))



87% START A
**FULL-TIME POSITION OR
GRADUATE PROGRAM***

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Social Services Directors
Youth Advocate
Behavioral Health Technician
Family Case Managers
Community Account Managers

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

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

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.

EARN BOTH DEGREES IN 5 YEARS

The Fast-Track Option offers both an accredited five-year Dual Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning (BSURP)/Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) degree.

Urban and Regional Planning ([BS](#) | [MURP](#))

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Urban and Regional Planning ([BS](#))

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

International Planning Studies ([MiPS](#))
Urban and Regional Planning ([MURP](#))



82% START A
**FULL-TIME POSITION OR
GRADUATE PROGRAM***

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Economic Development Specialist
Planning and Zoning Administrator
Urban Planner
Transportation Planner

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

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



GET INVOLVED: STUDENT GROUPS & ASSOCIATIONS

ANTHROPOLOGY

Undergraduate Anthropology Club
Graduate Student Association
in Anthropology

CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

Interdisciplinary Studies
Student Organization
Global and International Studies
Student Organization
Future Social Science Educators

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
(Gamma Theta Upsilon)
Advancing Geography Through
Diversity Program
Supporting Women in Geography

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES

HDFS Helping Hands Club

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political Science Scholars
Pre-Law Society

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
BASW 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: ACADEMIC 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 ACADEMIC ADVISORS

socialscience.msu.edu/advising

CAREER ADVISING

The Career Development Office works with students from their first-year on campus until they are ready to graduate. Students are most successful when they meet with us **early** and **often**. Schedule an appointment with a Career Consultant or Career Peer to develop a plan for career success.

Log in to Handshake and learn about the many resources available today.
msu.joinhandshake.com/





OUR SCIENCE **TRANSFORMS THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE**
AND INSPIRES LEADERS



College of Social Science
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

socialscience.msu.edu

