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
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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 )

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 )

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

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

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

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

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

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Archivist
Field Technician
Research Coordinator
Field Archaeologist
Data Transcriber
Curator

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

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

anthropology.msu.edu

clstudies.msu.edu
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.

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.

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 )

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Economics ( Minor | BA | BS )

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Economics ( PhD | Teacher Certificate )

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

FBI
Secret Service
State Government
Police Agencies
General Motors

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

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

AMONG TOP 10 HIGHEST PAYING majors
CNBC, 2019

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

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

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

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

90% START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM

92% START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM
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 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)
- Cities: Environment, Design, and Society (Minor)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

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

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

- Librarian
- Journalist
- Museum Curator
- Paralegal
- Project Manager
- Data Analyst
- Environmental Economist
- Climatologist
- Cartographer
- Soil Conservationist
- Location Analyst
- Urban Planner
- GIS Technician

AFRICAN HISTORY GRADUATE PROGRAM

#3 RANKED Nationally US News & World Report

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

- Librarian
- Journalist
- Museum Curator
- Paralegal
- Project Manager
- Data Analyst
- Environmental Economist
- Climatologist
- Cartographer
- Soil Conservationist
- Location Analyst
- Urban Planner
- GIS Technician

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

- Museums
- Libraries
- State Government
- Education
- News Media

83% START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

89% START A FULL-TIME POSITION OR GRADUATE PROGRAM

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY
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)
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 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

* Preliminary data by Career Services
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)

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.

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

Law Clerk
Legislative Aid
Paralegal
Field Organizer
Research Analyst

where some of our graduates work

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

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)

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

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

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)

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CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

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UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

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

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

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

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

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS
Urban and Regional Planning (BS)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS
International Planning Studies (MIPS)
Urban and Regional Planning (MURP)

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

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

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY
Economic Development Specialist
Planning and Zoning Administrator
Urban Planner
Transportation Planner

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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