

Sociology and Anthropology

College of Letters and Science

Sociology undergraduate programs of study:

- Sociology major
- Sociology minor (non-teaching)

What can I do with a degree in sociology?

- Human resources
- Social and family services
- Law enforcement
- Business ownership and management
- Community organizing
- Marketing and sales
- Nonprofit administration
- Academic research
- Marketing research
- Health care administration
- Public relations and communications

Our graduates have also received a master's and Ph.D. degree in sociology, education and social work. Our sociology majors also have entered into professional programs in law, medicine and business.

Faculty:

For a list of current faculty please see: <http://socanth.msu.montana.edu/~dept/faculty.html>

For additional information, contact:

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Montana State University
2-128 Wilson Hall
P.O. Box 172380
Bozeman, MT 59717-2380
Tel: (406) 994-4201
Fax: (406) 994-3177

<http://socanth.msu.montana.edu/>

Sociology, the scientific study of human interactions and relations within a structured society

Knowledge developed by sociologists informs and shapes social and economic policy. Through systematic observation, sociologists:

- Examine individuals, groups and collectives, networks, communities and large organizations, and whole societies and the world system.
- Study human behavior in families, communities, schools, legal and justice systems, religious groups, workplaces, political organizations and economic systems.
- Study cooperation, coordination, conflict, dissension, stability and change, social integration and cohesion, the diffusion of culture, deviance and social control.



Photo courtesy of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Bottom photo by Stephen Hunts.

The sociology curriculum at MSU

Theory & Research Methods so that students understand the basic ideas that are at the root of sociological inquiry and how sociologists learned what they know. Students conduct independent research under the guidance of faculty.

Social Dynamics so that students can better understand their constantly changing world and location in it.

Social Institutions so that students can more clearly see the pervasive role of social patterns and structures in their lives.

Social Inequity so that students can analyze the effects of class, race, ethnicity and gender on our society and on the lives of ordinary people.

Other courses on a wide variety of topics including group processes, white collar crime, legal systems and the law, the family, education, religion, indigenous peoples, environment, immigration and population processes.

How will I benefit from my sociology degree?

Sociology majors acquire a broad-based liberal arts education. We especially emphasize skills such as:

- Working individually and in teams
- Synthesis of data and information
- Critical reading and thinking
- Oral communication skills
- Research and analysis
- Analytical writing



MONTANA
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Anthropology, the study of humankind from a cross-cultural perspective

Because anthropology views humankind as both a biological and cultural organism, it combines the biological and social sciences. The broad scope of anthropological studies has resulted in most scholars specializing in one of the following four major sub-fields:

Social and Cultural Anthropologists study the symbols, meanings and social practices of members of contemporary societies.

Archaeologists use scientific and humanistic techniques to define and expand our picture of cultures of the past - including those for whom no written record exists as well as those of the recent historic past.

Biological Anthropologists study both the evolution of humankind, and the variation and physical adaptations of modern peoples.

Linguists study the nature and development of language, and how language is used in everyday life to structure and negotiate social interactions.

Anthropology undergraduate programs of study:

- Anthropology major
- Anthropology minor (non-teaching)

What can I do with a degree in anthropology?

A B.S. degree in anthropology prepares students for graduate work in this discipline; graduate degrees are typically required for professional participation in the field. Anthropologists find careers in the following fields:

- Research
- University instruction
- Consulting
- Teaching
- Museum curation
- Historic preservation
- Federal and state agencies
- Medicine and public health
- Environmental organizations
- Nongovernmental organizations
- Cultural resource management
- International development
- Social services

Undergraduates with an associated teaching certificate can find employment in secondary schools.



The anthropology curriculum at MSU

The anthropology curriculum at Montana State University emphasizes a solid grounding in each of the sub-fields of the discipline, with field and lab research opportunities in archaeology, ethnography and comparative ethnology. The content and organization of courses provide motivated students with a well-rounded understanding of the theory and practice of anthropology, including particular skills which are useful in interpreting past social practices as well as the social and cultural constructions of historic and current-day social groups. With these aims in mind, the course offerings include subjects such as human prehistory, social and cultural anthropology, language and culture, and biological anthropology.

How will I benefit from my anthropology degree?

Given its comprehensive approach to the study of social action, anthropology provides its graduates with the opportunity to obtain an array of conceptual skills that are applicable to a wide selection of occupations. Many businesses are beginning to appreciate the ways in which the unique anthropological perspective can contribute to their particular enterprise. An anthropology background provides students with the ability to understand small scale social organizations of all types; it is also particularly useful for those who may find themselves interacting with members of other social groups, either foreign or domestic.

Photos courtesy of Jack Fisher.