SOCIOLoGY & ANTHROPOLOGY
COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE | MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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.

THE SOCIOLOGY CURRICULUM AT MSU

- Theory and 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 emphasis 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

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1 Archaeology students Betsy Garten and Meghan Formey helped research, write and design an exhibit featuring ancient artifacts.
2 Students on a field trip in the Shields River Valley, Montana.
3 Recent graduate Esteban Ferrero Botero received 3 select scholarships to continue his studies in graduate school.
4 The Tios and Tias group pairs local Latino kids with college student mentors.
5 Student Victoria Bochniak works on an archaeological dig in Montana.
SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY

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.

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.