

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Our department provides students the opportunity to study crime, the criminal justice system, social institutions, and societies through both a biological and cultural lens. We offer three degree options: Bachelor's of Science (BS) in Sociology-Criminology, BS in Sociology, and BS in Anthropology.



Sociology-Criminology student intern at the Public Safety Center in 2024.

SOCIOLOGY & CRIMINOLOGY: THE STUDY OF CRIME, SOCIAL INTERACTIONS AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Our department gives students the opportunity to study both criminology and sociology. Criminology is the scientific study of crime, victimization, and the criminal justice system. Students are drawn to criminology to learn why some acts are criminal and others are not, why people break laws, and how we respond to these law breakers. The Criminology Concentration is our department's most popular Sociology BS degree option.

Sociology is study of human social interactions and institutions, social behavior, and the influence of society upon this behavior. The study of sociology often entails the examination of social life and human behavior, including how individuals interact, the structure of societies, and the forces that create social change. Sociology is a broad field that includes sub-areas such as education, the family, and social stratification.

THE SOCIOLOGY-CRIMINOLOGY CURRICULUM

The Criminology Concentration is rooted in the social sciences, and students get training in social statistics and research methodologies alongside coursework in criminology. Faculty in criminology have expertise in crime, victimization, corrections, prisoner reentry and reintegration, and the overlaps between crime, criminal justice, and other systems of stratification and inequality. Criminology students also take selected electives in sociology to help understand how crime is related to social interactions and institutions.

The General Sociology Concentration provides students interested in sociology flexible course options rooted in student engagement and critical thinking. Combined with foundational training in social statistics and research methodologies, courses in sociology stress social dynamics, social institutions, and social stratification. Sociology students have the flexibility to take courses focused on certain subareas of sociology that they are most interested in, and can combine sociology and criminology coursework for a dynamic and practical degree.

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM MY SOCIOLOGY DEGREE

Our faculty are committed to providing an undergraduate education that includes advising, research opportunities, and faculty-directed independent work. Many students complete internships with local agencies and organizations to get practical experience.

Our students are competitive in fields such as law enforcement, corrections, casework, and human and social services. Students continue their education in graduate school, law school, and counseling and social work programs.



Sociology-Criminology student intern Jojo Tobias learns how to process evidence as part of an internship with the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office. Students can complete internships with local agencies and organizations for course credit.

Major Options

- Sociology - Criminology option
- Sociology - General option
- Anthropology

Minors

- Anthropology
- Sociology

What can I do with a degree in sociology or anthropology?

- Admissions counselor
- Anthropologist
- Archaeologist
- Business manager
- Career/guidance counselor
- Child welfare worker
- Communications specialist
- Community affairs specialist
- Community agency director
- Cooperative Extension agent
- Corrections officer
- Criminologist
- Cultural resource management
- Editor/writer/journalist
- Fundraiser
- Gerontologist
- Government agency administrator
- Government research analyst
- Historical society director
- Hospital administrator
- Human resource administrator
- International/labor relations specialist
- Lawyer
- Lobbyist
- Law enforcement officer
- Market research analyst
- Mental health worker
- Multi-cultural educator
- Museum curator
- Nonprofit agency administrator
- Nursing home administrator
- Peace Corps worker
- Personnel manager
- Probation/parole officer
- Public administrator
- Public relations manager
- Rehabilitation counselor
- Researcher
- Sales representative
- School psychologist
- Social worker
- Sociologist
- Substance abuse counselor
- Teacher/professor
- Youth counselor

ANTHROPOLOGY: THE STUDY OF HUMANKIND FROM A CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Anthropology is the systematic study of humanity and the human experience. Students in anthropology become familiar with and understand the interrelationships among the diverse aspects of our humanity - both past and present. This includes trying to understand both the origins of our species and how our complex societies interact.

The anthropology program at MSU is rooted in strengths in archaeology (the study of human societies through remains such as artifacts and tools) and physical anthropology (the study of human genetics, adaptation, and evolution).

Our department also gives students exposure to cultural anthropology (the study of contemporary human societies) and linguistics (the study of the influence of language on life and societies). This complements our primary expertise in physical anthropology.

THE ANTHROPOLOGY CURRICULUM

The anthropology curriculum is rooted in a broad approach that recognizes the relevance of the Montana geographic area. There are field and lab research opportunities in archaeology and physical anthropology that involve direct engagement with local peoples and places. Students learn how to think critically, formulate logical arguments, and write coherently. The content and organization of courses provide students with an understanding of the theory and practice of anthropology, including skills useful in interpreting past social practices as well as the social and cultural constructions of historic and current-day social groups.

The curriculum is structured so that students can complement their studies in anthropology with minors or second majors in areas such as sociology, Native American studies, museum studies, psychology, or political science. Students can also take advantage of field school opportunities through MSU or transferred in from other institutions.

For additional information, contact:

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Anthropology Student Club members tour the Buffalo Center of the West.

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM MY ANTHROPOLOGY DEGREE?

Many businesses are beginning to appreciate the ways in which the anthropological perspective can contribute to their 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.



Associate Professor Cody Warner and students in an upper-division Sociology course.