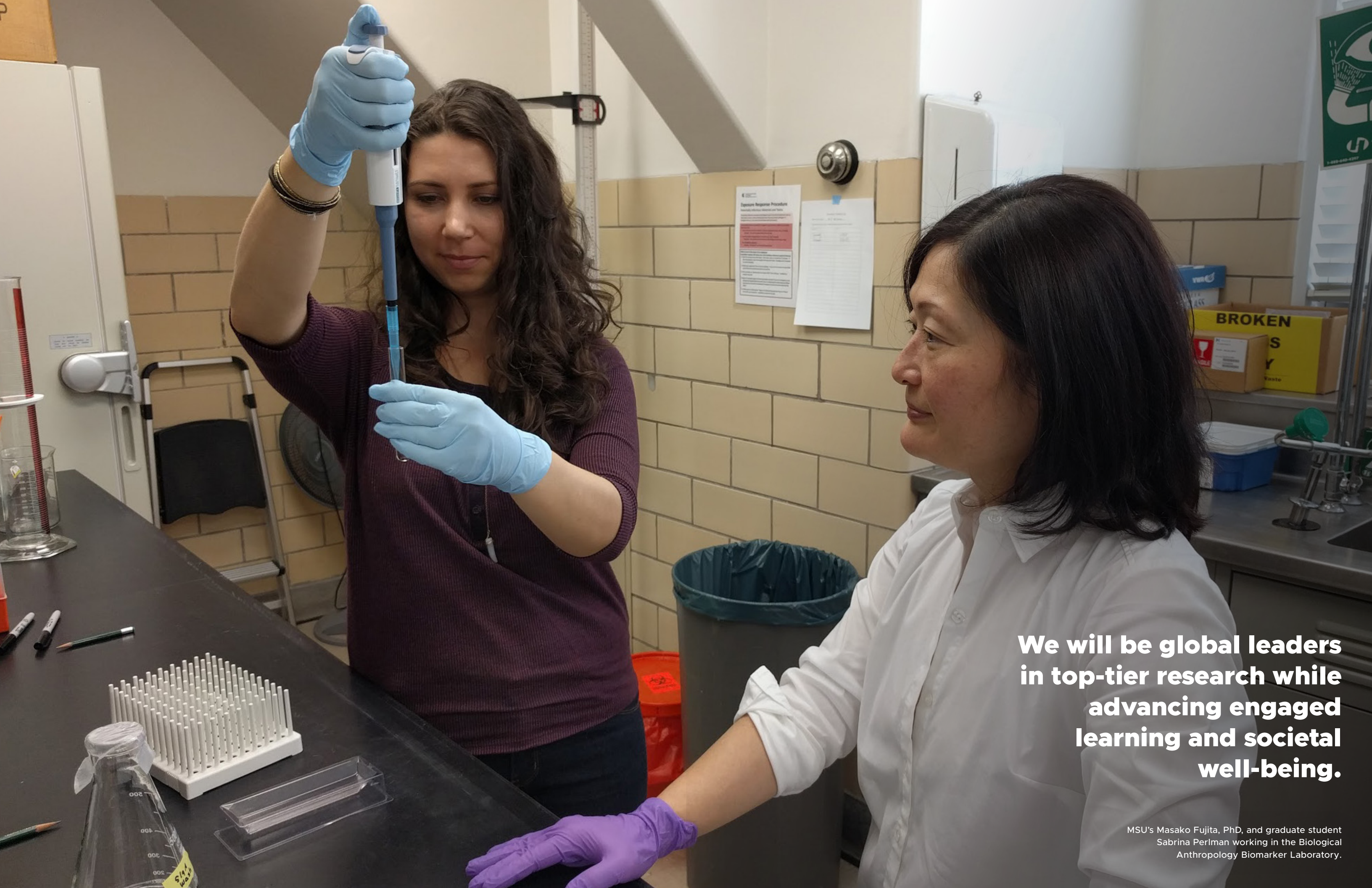


THE
SOCIAL SCIENTIST'S
GUIDE





**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



WHAT CAN I EXPECT: SOCIAL SCIENCE

AREAS OF STUDY

- 5 Anthropology
- 7 Chicano/Latino Studies
- 9 Criminal Justice
- 11 Economics
- 13 Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences
- 15 History
- 17 Human Development and Family Studies
- 19 Human Resources and Labor Relations
- 21 Integrative Studies
- 23 Political Science
- 25 Psychology
- 27 Social Work
- 29 Sociology

31 STUDENT GROUPS & ASSOCIATIONS

33 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](#))

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 program 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](#))

CLS MINOR COMPLEMENTS THOSE PURSUING CAREERS IN

Social Work
Education
Government
Healthcare

Businesses & organizations that
serve multicultural 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.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

**RANKED
TOP
10
Nationally**
US News & World Report

#9 Doctoral Program

#10 Online Masters Program

#7 Online Masters Program (For Veterans)

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Criminal Justice (BA)

Cyber Investigations (Concentration)

Law, Justice and Public Policy (Minor)

Security Management (Minor)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Criminal Justice (MA | MS | PhD)

Cybercrime and Digital Investigation (MS)

Forensic Science (MS)

Law Enforcement Intelligence and Analysis (MS)

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Crime/Intel Analyst

Federal Agent

Corporate Security Analyst

Digital Forensics Investigator

Police Officer

Adult/Juvenile Probation Officer

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

FBI

Secret Service

Police Agencies

Tech & Auto Sector

Critical Infrastructure Industries





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)

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.

GIS INDUSTRY

PROJECTED TO DOUBLE
IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS



UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

- Climate Change Studies (Minor)
- Earth Observation and Geospatial Analytics (Minor | BS)
- Environment and Health (Minor)
- Geography (BA)
- Human-Environment and Economic Geography (Minor | BS)
- Physical Environment and Climate (Minor | BS)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Geography (MS | PhD)

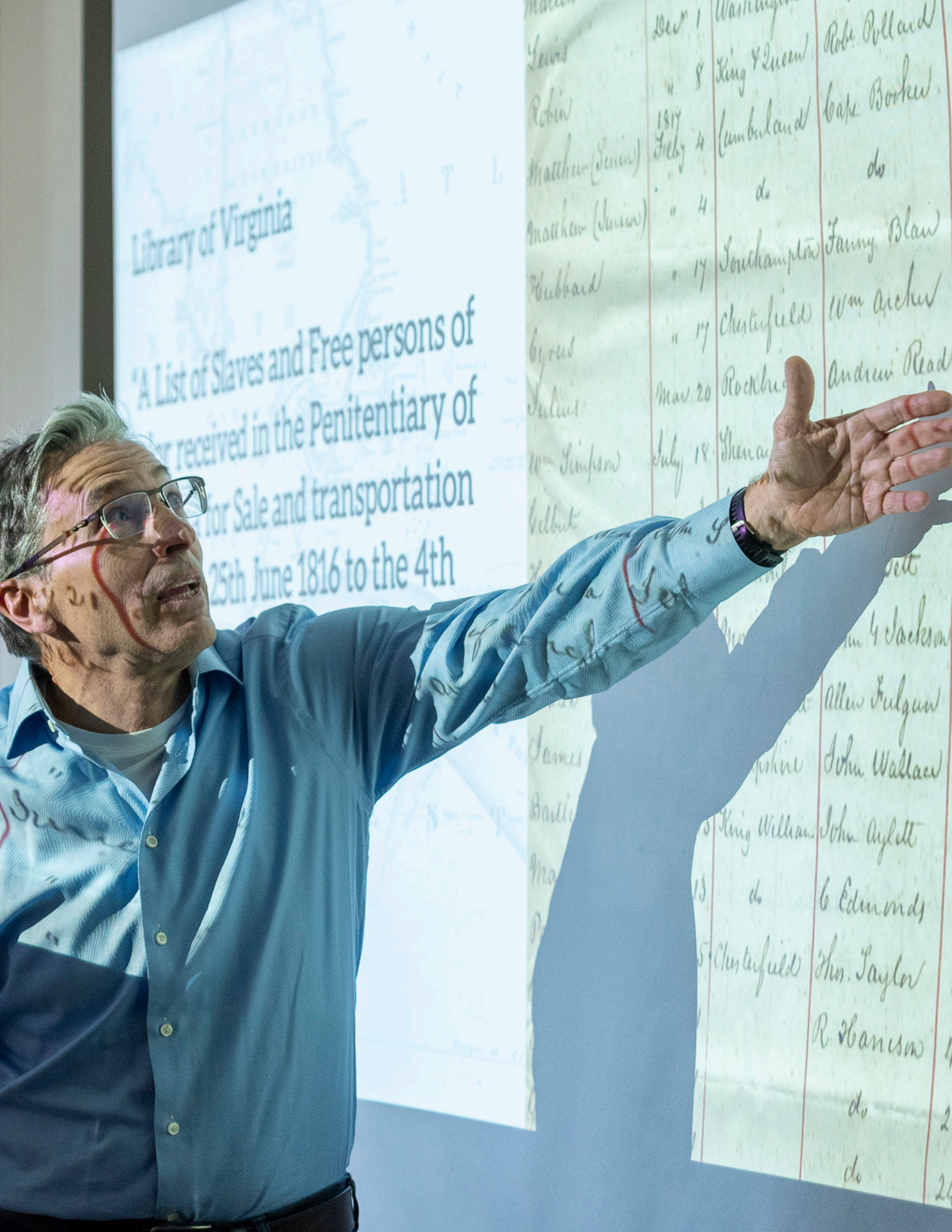
CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

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

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

- Business
- Nonprofits & NGOs
- Federal, State & Local Government
- Academia





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. Studying in the History Department not only allows students to learn about global history from some of the world's leading experts but also enables them to develop many of the important "soft skills" that are in high demand by many employers. For future teachers, the program provides the crucial subject-area expertise that students can utilize in their classrooms.

**NATIONALLY RANKED BY
THE US NEWS & WORLD REPORT**

3 African
History
Graduate
Program

17 African-
American
History Graduate
Program

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

- Defense Studies and Leadership (Minor)
- Global History (BA)
- History (Minor | BA)
- History: Social Studies Education (BA)
- Cities: Environment, Design, and Society (Minor)
- African Studies (Minor)
- Asian Studies (Minor)
- Asian Pacific American Studies (Minor)
- Latin American and Caribbean Studies (Minor)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

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

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

- Librarian
- Teacher
- Journalist
- Researcher
- Museum Curator
- Lawyer
- Project Manager
- Data Analyst

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

- Museums
- Libraries
- Law Firms
- Government
- Education
- News Media
- Public Relations
- Corporate Management

WHAT IS: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY STUDIES

HDFS is an interdisciplinary field focused on understanding and improving the lives of children, youth, and families in diverse contexts. HDFS students explore topics like early childhood education, parenting, relationships, mental health, racial and cultural socialization, and financial literacy while gaining hands-on experience through applied learning opportunities in the Child Development Laboratory and Couple and Family Therapy Clinic. We are a community dedicated to making a meaningful impact on mental health and well-being across the lifespan.

BACHELOR OF ARTS + MASTER'S DEGREE

4+1

Complete a B.A. and M.S. in Child Development in a shorter amount of time while also saving money

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

- Child Development (BA)
- Human Development & Family Studies (BA | BS)
- Financial Literacy for Personal & Community Success (Minor)
- Youth and Society (Minor)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Child Development (MS)
- Family & Community Services (MA)
- Human Development & Family Studies (MS | PhD)
- Youth Development (MA)
- Early Childhood & Family Policy (Grad Certificate)
- Human Services Administration (Grad Certificate)
- Youth Development Specialist (Grad Certificate)
- Youth Program Management & Evaluation (Grad Certificate)

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

- Advocacy and Law
- Business
- Education
- Health Professions
- Human Services
- Research

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

- Businesses
- Government
- Hospitals
- Schools
- Universities





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 Resources and Labor Relations (BA)
Leadership of Organizations (Minor)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Human Resources and Labor Relations (MHRLR | PhD)

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

MSU's Center for Integrative Studies in Social Science serves as a hub for exploring and addressing social issues through a multidisciplinary lens, uniting various fields within and outside the social sciences. Under this umbrella, the Center offers two customizable majors that empower students to shape their academic journeys according to their passions and career goals:

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCE

Draws on campus-wide courses to create cohesive, theme-based concentrations rooted in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences.

GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Provides students with breadth in social science foundational courses combined with in-depth knowledge in a world region or global topic.

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science (BA | BS)

Global and International Studies in Social Science (BA)

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Policy Analyst
Nonprofit Program Manager
Corporate Social Responsibility
(CSR) Specialist
International Program Officer
Human Rights Advocate
Global Supply Chain Analyst

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

Henry Ford Health System
Teach for America
State of Michigan
Farmers Insurance
FedEx
Sparrow Health Systems





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)

Public Policy (MPP)

CAREERS YOU COULD ENJOY

Legislative Director

Attorney

Policy Analyst

Data Analyst

Public Affairs Officer

WHERE SOME OF OUR GRADUATES WORK

Executive Office
of the Governor

Southern Poverty Law Center

MIT's Poverty Action Lab

Michigan Department
of Education

Michigan Public Health Institute

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)

Work and Organizational Psychology (MS)

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 & Policy in Social Work
- Social Work with Children, Youth & Families
- Health & Aging Services
- Non-Profit Leadership in Social Work

UNDERGRAD PROGRAMS

- Human Behavior & Social Services (Minor)
- Social Work (BA)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Clinical Social Work Concentration (MSW)
- Organization & Community Leadership Concentration (MSW)
- Social Work (PhD)

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)

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

Reasonable decision

I feel like if you have a heart attack, and you have a high dose of estrogen, I'm sorry but any provider out there will look at my record and think, "what on earth were you doing? The writing was totally on the wall."

Anne, Gynecologist



GET INVOLVED: STUDENT GROUPS & ASSOCIATIONS

ANTHROPOLOGY

Undergraduate Anthropology Club
Graduate Student Association
in Anthropology

CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

I3 (Integrative Interdisciplinary Initiatives) Club

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Cold Case Unit
American Criminal Justice Association
National Association of Blacks
in Criminal Justice
National Criminal Justice Honor Society

ECONOMICS

Econ Scholars
Economics Club
Women and Minorities in Economics

GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, AND SPATIAL SCIENCES

GEOClub
Geography Graduate Group
Gamma Theta Upsilon
(The International Geographic Honor Society)
Supporting Women in Geography

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
LGBTQ+ Student Group

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology Club

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

