

# THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND CULTURAL STUDIES

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The Department of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies houses academic programs in criminal justice, environmental studies, Native American Studies, political science, and sociology.

## Criminal Justice (AS/BS/Minor)

The criminal justice program at MSU Billings is designed to provide students with a foundation for understanding the principles and practices of the criminal justice system in the United States. Students will learn about the essential components of the criminal justice system, explanations for offending, and how to read, understand, and collect data on these topics, including data about offending and victimization; an internship experience is required. A degree in criminal justice provides academic background appropriate for a variety of criminal justice occupations, including law enforcement, community- and institutional-corrections, and work with justice-involved people.

## Environmental Studies (BA)

The environmental studies program at MSU Billings is an interdisciplinary program designed to provide students with a theoretical and applied understanding of the environment. Students will examine how environmental values, geospatial technologies, and policies shape knowledge about environmental issues and management at local, national, and global scales; an internship experience is required. A degree in environmental studies prepares students to succeed in a range of environmentally focused careers, including in government, the environmental non-profit sector, and in various GIS-oriented occupations.

## American Indian and Indigenous Studies (Minor)

The American Indian and Indigenous Studies program at MSU Billings is an interdisciplinary program designed to foster student exploration of social, cultural, historical, and legal factors that influence the lives of American Indian and Indigenous people. A minor in American Indian and Indigenous studies provides academic background appropriate for careers involving work with people from diverse cultural backgrounds, including those in the social and human services and healthcare fields.






## Political Science (BS/Minor)

Political science is the scientific study of politics, governance, and power, which includes the study of political systems, institutions, behaviors, and processes at local, state, national, and international levels. The political science program at MSU Billings is designed to provide students with an understanding of politics, international relations, economics, and law. Students will learn about the essential components of the United States and other countries' political systems, the origins and impact of different structures for collective action, the interface between markets and government, as well as analytical tools for evaluating what we *should* do with government as well as what we can *expect* from government. The five major areas of concentration within the degree are International Relations and Comparative Politics, the Legal System, U.S. Government, Public Administration, and Political and

Economic Thought. A degree in political science provides academic background for careers in politics, law, public administration, and business.

## Sociology (BS/Minor)

The sociology program at MSU Billings is designed to provide students with a foundation for understanding the structure of groups, organizations, and societies and how people interact within these contexts. Required coursework emphasizes theory and methods as tools for investigating social life, and students will take complementary coursework on families and relationships, crime and criminal justice, social inequalities, and health and environments; an internship experience is required. A degree in sociology provides background appropriate for a range of social and human service occupations, including case worker, community organizer, human resources coordinator, community health worker, market researcher, diversity manager, and guidance counselor.

- Criminal Justice Bachelor of Science Degree (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/departments-social-sciences-cultural-studies/bs-criminal-justice/>)  Offered Online
- Environmental Studies Bachelor of Arts Degree (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/departments-social-sciences-cultural-studies/ba-environmental-studies/>)
- Political Science Bachelor of Science Degree (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/departments-social-sciences-cultural-studies/bs-political-science/>)
- Sociology Bachelor of Science Degree (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/departments-social-sciences-cultural-studies/bs-sociology/>)  Offered Online
- American Indian and Indigenous Studies Minor (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/departments-social-sciences-cultural-studies/minor-american-indian-and-indigenous-studies/>)  Offered Online
- Criminal Justice Minor (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/departments-social-sciences-cultural-studies/minor-criminal-justice/>)  Offered Online
- Political Science Minor (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/departments-social-sciences-cultural-studies/minor-political-science/>)
- Political Science Teaching Minor (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/departments-social-sciences-cultural-studies/teaching-minor-political-science/>)
- Sociology Minor (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/departments-social-sciences-cultural-studies/minor-sociology/>)  Offered Online

 Offered Online

- Criminal Justice Associate of Science Program of Study (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/departments-social-sciences-cultural-studies/criminal-justice-as/>)
- Social Science (Broadfield) Endorsement Licensure (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/departments-social-sciences-cultural-studies/social-science-broadfield-endorsement-licensure/>)