



COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES



In the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, our mission is to provide a stimulating environment where faculty and students can explore the human condition through the tools of research, teaching and service. Our research spans the life cycle and reaches across the globe as faculty and students explore health and culture, our social, political, legal and economic institutions and the environment. Numerous labs, clinics and centers in the college provide the backdrop for faculty to guide some of the brightest students from around the world in hands-on activity and exceptional intellectual dialogue. And the bustling Baltimore-Washington corridor provides endless opportunities for active engagement so our students and faculty cannot only work to understand society's challenges but ultimately help shape the world we live in.

THE COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES is one of 12 colleges and schools at the University of Maryland, the state's flagship university. We offer four of the most popular majors on campus: criminology and criminal justice; economics; government and politics; and psychology. Other undergraduate majors include: African American studies; anthropology; environmental science and policy; geography; geographic information science and computer cartography; hearing and speech sciences; and sociology.

The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences is also the largest college on campus in terms of the number of students it serves. Nearly one of every five undergraduates at Maryland is majoring in the behavioral or social sciences. These students graduate from our college to help shape the world as researchers, policy makers and practitioners in a wide range of fields including government, business, law, health and others.

Many of our students are engaged in education abroad programs and internship experiences to enhance their academic careers. Furthermore, some students have the opportunity to participate in one of our living and learning programs such as CIVICUS or College Park Scholars International Studies, both of which allow students to share their common interests as a closely joined community.

Located just beyond Washington, D.C., the University of Maryland is one of the nation's premier public research universities. Our prime location allows us to interact with many of the top government agencies and nonprofit organizations involved with policy-making and research in the behavioral and social sciences.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

www.aasp.umd.edu

The department offers a Bachelor of Arts degree with two highly-regarded options: a cultural and social analysis concentration with traditional liberal arts training aimed at exploring the culture and history of African Americans; and the public policy concentration with an emphasis on problem-solving, analytical decision-making and practical applications of policy analysis and management skills.

ANTHROPOLOGY

www.anth.umd.edu

Anthropology is the science of the biological evolution of human species and the disciplined scholarship of the cultural development of human beings' knowledge and customary behavior. It is the study of culture and seeks to understand humans as a whole – as social beings who are capable of symbolic communication through which they produce a rich cultural record. Undergraduate majors have the option of concentrating in one of three subfields or maintaining a general anthropology focus. The subfields are archaeology, biological anthropology and cultural anthropology.

CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

www.ccjs.umd.edu

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice serves to provide an educational foundation for students interested in crime and delinquency and to learn ways for their prevention and control. As one of the most popular academic majors at the University of Maryland, students are introduced to a variety of subjects such as: criminology, criminal law, research methods, corrections, law enforcement and juvenile delinquency.

ECONOMICS

www.econ.umd.edu

The undergraduate program in economics is designed to help students understand the methods of analysis typically used in the discipline as well as knowledge of the American economic system and our country's economic relations with the rest of the world. Students analyze economic forces that determine the production of goods and services, the level of prices, the distribution of income and other economic factors that influence the quality of life. The program of study includes empirical and analytical techniques as well as opportunities to focus on policy issues and current economic problems.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & POLICY

www.ensp.umd.edu

The Environmental Science and Policy Program offers five concentrations associated with the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences: global environmental change; land use; marine and coastal management; politics and policy; and society and environmental issues. For more information regarding these concentrations, please visit the Environmental Science and Policy website.

GEOGRAPHY

www.geog.umd.edu

Geography is a broad discipline; all aspects of the Earth's systems, human and physical, are within its scope. Geography is the study of people, places and environments and it seeks to integrate the human and the physical components of a system or place using a spatial approach. It means understanding space and location, interpreting how people live in particular places, the relationships between places, the complexities of environments and the human use of environments. Students specializing in geography will focus on human-environmental interactions, developing an area of concentration such as biogeography or urban geography. Those specializing in geographic information science and computer cartography will obtain the technical skills needed to acquire, manage and analyze large amounts of geographic data.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

www.gvpt.umd.edu

The Department of Government and Politics combines philosophical and scientific concerns in its overall program as well as in specific courses. Government and politics is the study of power, power relations and social justice. The department is organized into subfields in which undergraduates can focus their coursework. These subfields include: American politics, comparative politics, political theory, international relations, political economy, public law and political behavior.

HEARING & SPEECH SCIENCES

www.hesp.umd.edu

Hearing and speech sciences is an inherently interdisciplinary field, integrating knowledge from the physical and biological sciences, medicine, psychology, linguistics and education in order to understand human communication and its disorders. An undergraduate major in this field is an appropriate background for graduate training in speech-language pathology or audiology, as well as for graduate work in other disciplines requiring knowledge of normal or disordered speech, language or hearing. The student who wishes to become a speech-language pathologist or audiologist must obtain a graduate degree in order to meet national certification requirements and most state licensure laws.

PSYCHOLOGY

www.psychology.umd.edu

Psychology is a remarkably broad field that studies the mind and behavior at all levels of analysis ranging from the micro to the macro; from single cells to complex systems; from individuals to groups and cultures; and from invertebrates to humans. Some of these endeavors connect with the biological sciences and others with the social sciences. The undergraduate major in psychology provides an introduction to the methods by which the behavior of humans and other organisms are studied, and to the biological conditions and social factors that influence behavior. The program emphasizes a strong foundation in quantitative and research methods. Students who wish to study psychology or a related field will have opportunities to participate in research.

SOCIOLOGY

www.socy.umd.edu

Sociology is the scientific study of society and its institutions, organizations and groups. By observing the broad range of activities in society and exploring topics such as social class, race, gender, deviance, family, religion, the work place and demographic trends, sociologists provide important information and perspectives on our social order and the causes and impacts of social change. The undergraduate sociology program offers four areas of specialization: social psychology; family and demography; social organizations; and social stratification.

MINOR & CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- African American Studies (certificate)
- Black Women's Studies
- Geographical Information Science
- Global Studies
- Hearing & Speech Sciences
- International Development & Conflict Management
- Neuroscience
- Survey Methodology
- Terrorism Studies



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