Social sciences at The College

Students have access to a variety of programs and centers within the social sciences, as well as the interdisciplinary experience of studying courses within the other two divisions of The College: natural sciences and humanities. This cross-disciplinary approach transforms students into socially aware, critical thinkers who have the tools to adapt and succeed in their career and life.

Academic units
American Indian Studies
Economics
Hugh Downs School of Human Communication
School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership
School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning
School of Human Evolution and Social Change
School of Politics and Global Studies
School of Social Transformation
School of Transborder Studies
T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics

Centers and institutes
Center for the Advanced Study and Practice of Hope
Center for Archaeology and Society
Center for Behavior, Institutions and the Environment
Center for Bioarchaeological Research
Center for Child and Family Success
Center for Digital Antiquity
Center for Gender Equity in Science and Technology
Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science
Center for Global Health
Center for Indian Education
Center for Latina/o and American Politics Research
Center for Political Thought and Leadership
Center for Social Dynamics and Complexity
Center for Strategic Communication
Center for the Study of Economic Liberty
Center on the Future of War
Center for Work and Democracy
Institute for Social Science Research
Institute of Human Origins
Melikian Center: Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies
Spatial Analysis Research Center (SPARC)
Urban Climate Research Center

Philanthropy fuels possibilities

When you invest in the social sciences, you help fuel our commitment to creating access for all students. For the 2020-2021 academic year, students in The College received more than $124 million in scholarships, allowing them a better chance to thrive in their academic journey. In addition, philanthropy provides an extra measure of support for our top faculty, research initiatives and community programs that otherwise could not be achieved. Together, we can impact the lives of many.

asufoundation.org/thecollege

"By working across disciplines, students in the social sciences discover solutions to issues of global health, social inequality, governance and policy and more. They are the leaders of tomorrow, guiding us to a more equitable, sustainable future."

— Patrick Kenney
Dean of The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Fact sheet Social sciences
Driving transformation through interdisciplinary research

The social sciences division at The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences drives transformation through inclusive and interdisciplinary research, teaching and service. With a solutions-oriented, intersectional approach, students gain a deeper understanding of the interconnections of our evolving world, as well as valuable insights about the need for collaboration to bring about social change. Students have the ability to explore everything from interpersonal communication, political science and urban planning to transborder studies, economics and human evolution.

Leading global impact and innovative solutions

Our faculty and scholars are educating the next generation of globally informed leaders while creating a more equitable, sustainable future. We are proud to have multiple members of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Education and many more top scholars leading our mission to provide unmatched access to all.

Conducting research through diverse perspectives

Haunani Kãne, an assistant professor in the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, organized and led the first research team entirely composed of Native Hawaiians to conduct climate and sea-level rise research in Pahãhanaumokuãkea. Her team of researchers traveled by sailboat — an important part of incorporating the team’s ancestral history into their research.

Preparing the leaders of tomorrow

Retired U.S. State Department Ambassador Edward O’Donnell, retired Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley and Ambassador-in-Residence Michael C. Polt joined together to launch the Leadership, Diplomacy and National Security Lab. Students, faculty and staff interact directly with each expert through various educational opportunities including the ASU Global Leaders Program, a leadership development, training and education program set.

Addressing health disparities in Latino communities

Gilberto Lopez, an assistant professor in the School of Transborder Studies, strives to reduce health disparities in Latino communities through his work. He partnered with the school’s virtual artist in residence Lalo Alcaraz, a political cartoonist and Pulitzer Prize finalist, to create a strategic campaign to dispel misinformation around COVID-19 and the vaccine in Latino communities.

Building a community of belonging

By measuring our success not by whom we exclude, but rather whom we include and how they succeed, The College builds up a community that values, welcomes and amplifies unique perspectives. Through a number of new initiatives, Sun Devils are able to have important conversations and develop diversity-informed research, while learning how to thrive in today’s interconnected world. Of the 10,000+ students pursuing a degree in the social sciences, 38 percent are Pell Grant eligible and 32 percent are the first in their families to attend a university.

| 363 | faculty members |
| 63% | female student population |
| 15:1 | student to faculty ratio |
| 77 | National Scholar students |
| 35,000+ | students enrolled in social science courses |

“I think the opportunity that ASU brings to connect across disciplines — the New American model — is very interesting. You have a social scientist with a political scientist and an engineer working to understand issues of energy or issues of food, and I think that was something very eye-opening for me.”

Anaís Delilah Roque
Environmental social science (PhD)