

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, SOCIETY AND JUSTICE

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The department provides students with three interrelated disciplines in which they can pursue a B.A. or B.S. degree: anthropology, sociology, and criminology. Our department is an ideal academic home for students interested in developing their understanding of people, society and justice, cultural and social diversity, intercultural and global relations, and issues of justice, crime, and society. These programs give students the tools and perspectives necessary to understanding themselves and others in social and cultural contexts and systems of justice. The educational experience in anthropology, criminology, or sociology—including ample opportunity for interactions with faculty—provides a foundation from which students can better appreciate the challenges they face in their professional and personal lives.

Anthropology

Anthropology is the comprehensive study of the human condition from humanity's evolutionary past to its biological diversity, from the distant past to modern cultural and linguistic variety, and from rural to urban societies. While the program at the University of Idaho considers the breadth of these topics and issues, its primary focus is on Indigenous peoples, contemporary U.S. culture, bioarchaeology, historical archaeology, archaeological conservation and stabilization, and the archaeology and ethnography of the Indigenous Tribes of the North American Plateau. Graduates of the program are able to apply their anthropological skills and knowledge with an eye toward making a difference. Graduates go on to experience successful careers or pursue advanced programs of graduate studies.

The Archaeological Technician Program is designed to offer students a solid understanding of the practical and theoretical knowledge necessary to be qualified for an entry level position in government or cultural resource management (CRM). Participants must complete the entire training program with emphases in field survey, excavation, and laboratory methods. All three areas of the certificate program include practical experience in the field and lab with academic and/or professional evaluations that include appropriate readings and examinations.

Graduate study in anthropology is offered in areas such as American Indian Studies, archaeology, sociocultural anthropology, and biological anthropology. The program offers both a thesis and a non-thesis M.A. Both programs include class work, seminars, directed studies, independent research, and a thesis (with public defense) or final project. The curriculum provides sound training in general anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology, and ethnology. Departmental research specialties include historical archaeology (especially public and community-engaged archaeology), archaeologies of the American West, Asian diaspora archaeology, bioarchaeology, skeletal biology, prehistoric Plateau archaeology, Plateau Indian ethnography, contemporary American culture, and Indigenous peoples of North America. Anthropologists in the department also regularly collaborate with the university's history department in support of a joint Ph.D. in History with an emphasis on historical archaeology. Graduates of the M.A. program have successfully gone on to pursue additional graduate

work and professional careers in anthropology. Interested students should contact the department for the application procedures.

Criminology

Criminology is the study of the causes and consequences of crime. Coursework in criminology includes a comprehensive understanding of explanations of crime, research methods used to scientifically measure and study crime, the evaluation of crime control policies, and a consideration of the broader social and political context of crime and justice. Elective courses will acquaint students with various types of crime and norm violation such as juvenile delinquency, social deviance, violent crime, white collar crime, and terrorism. In addition, institutional responses through policing and punishment are also considered. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the problems of crime and the criminal justice system. Students may pursue their criminology degree, either entirely or in part, through our online criminology program.

The department now offers a graduate degree in criminology. The program is currently offered in the seated and online modalities. Admitted students may take either a thesis or non-thesis option. The curriculum provides for the instruction and application of research methods, criminological theories, and practical and policy implications for criminal justice. Graduate faculty research expertise includes policing, punishment, international issues and security, as well as both statistical and qualitative techniques. The program is designed for professional development, where graduates may advance in careers in the justice system or pursue further graduate education. Interested students should contact the department for more information.

Sociology

Sociology is the scientific study of human behavior, with an emphasis on understanding social interaction, groups, and organizations. It is an ideal major for students who are curious about themselves and the world they live in; who want to learn to understand systems and power; and who want to make the world a better place. The goal of sociology is to help students develop a "sociological imagination," the ability to understand how individual experiences, behaviors, and opportunities are influenced by the historical moment and social forces beyond the immediate control of any one person.

The sociology program's strengths include social inequalities, environmental and economic justice, science and technology, politics, community studies, love, the possibilities of a better world, and applied research. The program provides students opportunities to gain practical work experience through internships and community-based learning. Students leave prepared for careers in non-profit organizations, community organizing, government think tanks, labor unions, social work positions, and applied research. The program also provides a foundation for graduate education in sociology, political science, urban planning, public administration, public health, criminology, social work, and law.

The department offers an academic certificate in equity and justice. The certificate prepares students to do equity work in their professional life post-graduation. Through this certificate, students learn theoretical frameworks for understanding structural inequality and possibilities for a better world. They also take a series of hands-on workshops that demonstrate how to put those theories into the practice of specific work-place skills such as grant writing, developing DEIA plans for organizations, using institutional data, and more. The certificate recognizes competency in understanding structural factors that contribute to inequity in society and provides students with a focused

and work-related credential to increase their competitiveness and effectiveness in the job market.

Questions concerning the department and its programs should be addressed to the department chair (208-885-6751).

Majors

- Anthropology (B.A. or B.S.) (<https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/letters-arts-social-sciences/culture-society-justice/anthropology-ba-bs/>)
- Criminology (B.S.) (<https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/letters-arts-social-sciences/culture-society-justice/criminology-bs/>)
- Sociology (B.A. or B.S.) (<https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/letters-arts-social-sciences/culture-society-justice/sociology-ba-bs/>)

Minors

- Black Studies Minor (<https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/letters-arts-social-sciences/culture-society-justice/black-studies-minor/>)
- Anthropology Minor (<https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/letters-arts-social-sciences/culture-society-justice/anthropology-minor/>)
- Sociology Minor (<https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/letters-arts-social-sciences/culture-society-justice/sociology-minor/>)

Certificates

- Archaeological Technician Undergraduate Academic Certificate (<https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/letters-arts-social-sciences/culture-society-justice/archaeological-technician-undergraduate-academic-certificate/>)
- Equity and Justice Undergraduate Academic Certificate (<https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/letters-arts-social-sciences/culture-society-justice/equity-justice-undergraduate-academic-certificate/>)

Culture, Society and Justice Graduate Program

- Anthropology (M.A.) (<https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/letters-arts-social-sciences/culture-society-justice/anthropology-ma/>)
- Criminology (M.S.) (<https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/letters-arts-social-sciences/culture-society-justice/criminology-ms/>)