

Social Sciences

Graduate Programs



mtu.edu/social-sciences



**Michigan
Technological
University**

“Social Sciences faculty and researchers lead international and national projects, and students have opportunities to engage in cutting-edge research, while gaining cross-disciplinary expertise. Graduates of our programs are prepared to join and shape the skilled STEM workforce of the 21st century.”

–Melissa F. Baird, associate professor of anthropology



About the Department

The Department of Social Sciences at Michigan Technological University is home to graduate programs and a graduate certificate program that feature interdisciplinary engagement across the social sciences.

Our programs draw on anthropology, geography, history, political science, and sociology, and use tools from geospatial sciences, archaeological sciences, statistical analyses, and ethnographic research to examine real-world problems impacting communities and their environments. These student-oriented programs allow for direct and meaningful engagement with faculty, and provide opportunities to be involved in research, publishing, and professional development.

Conduct real-world research alongside faculty who serve as your mentors. Graduate prepared for professional opportunities that require interdisciplinary solutions in government affairs, private industry, consulting, and academia, as well as for global non-profit organizations.

Competitive funding covering both tuition and assistantships is available.

93%

of graduates work directly in their field of study

3:1

graduate student-to-faculty ratio within the department

Top 25

Colleges for Your Money (*Forbes*)



Are You Ready?

At Michigan Tech, we're ready for tomorrow. Are you? Get started with your free application today: mtu.edu/gradschool/apply

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GRADUATE PROGRAMS

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Environmental and Energy Policy—MS, PhD

The environmental and energy policy (EEP) program equips students with the necessary tools, insights, and expertise to address pressing global challenges in the environmental, sustainability, and energy sectors. As the demand for clean energy solutions rises and environmental issues become increasingly complex, the need for well-informed, innovative, and adaptive critical thinkers and policy leaders has never been greater. As a student, you will have many opportunities to engage in critical science-policy research with faculty both inside and outside of the department.

PhD students conduct policy-based research in an interdisciplinary environment. You'll work directly with research-focused faculty members with experience addressing some of the most pressing environmental and energy issues. Contribute to ongoing funded research projects, which often lead to peer-reviewed publications. At the Master's level, you can earn a thesis-based or course-only MS degree. Current MTU undergraduate students can take advantage of the one-year accelerated MS degree.

Industrial Heritage and Archaeology—MS, PhD

The Industrial Heritage and Archaeology (IHA) program examines the history and material culture of industry and industrial communities in the context of social change, deindustrialization, and revitalization. Our unique program, based in the "Copper Country" of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, draws from interdisciplinary concepts and tools in history, archaeology, and anthropology. Student research involves working with communities to interpret, document, educate, and answer significant social, historical, environmental, and economic questions about the impacts and legacies of industrialization.

MS graduates are prepared for cultural resource management positions in government or the private sector. PhD graduates are prepared for research careers in heritage management, education, preservation, and government service.

Sustainable Communities—MS

The Sustainable Communities (Sus-Com) program prepares students to become leaders who are skilled sustainability analysts, consultants, educators, planners, and policymakers. Students build skills in policy analyses, law, community engagement, and social data analysis while receiving training in cultural and industrial heritage, built environments, social justice, and comparative perspectives on sustainability.

MS graduates are prepared to work in management positions in the public, private, and non-profit sectors promoting environmental protection, social responsibility, and profitability.

Public Policy—Certificate

Augment your graduate degree with a graduate-level certificate in public policy. Take three additional courses and develop relevant skills and policy analysis expertise needed to prepare for a professional career such as policy analyst or leader in public service.

“How local knowledge can support climate action is not just economic, but social and cultural. The transition can be a local-driven project. If we have abandoned mines filled with water, they will be contaminated. It's not a matter of if, but when it will leak into the groundwater. Here, we are presenting a technology that can mitigate a threat. Economics would call it an externality. We can see it through the lens of energy justice.”

—Shardul Tiwari '22,
PhD Environmental and
Energy Policy



“My research is about uncovering hidden narratives from Indigenous and Descendant communities of Minnesota's “Iron Range” about iron mining (past, present, and future). Ultimately, I hope to collaboratively produce an example of best practices for engaging with these communities for improving the industrial heritage interpretation that is currently in existence, as well as future interpretive ventures.”

—Larissa Juip, doctoral student and
Dissertation Innovation Fellowship recipient
from Mellon/American Council of Learned
Societies, industrial heritage and archaeology

About the Graduate School

The Graduate School at Michigan's flagship technological university offers more than 100 graduate degree programs for what tomorrow needs. Our rural campus, situated just miles from Lake Superior in Michigan's scenic Upper Peninsula, is the perfect blend of nature and technology. Join a vibrant, multicultural, and scholarly community of students from all 50 states and more than 55 countries around the world who are ready to create the future—just like you.

Department of Social Sciences

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Apply online for free at mtu.edu/gradschool/apply



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About Houghton

The area's waters, forests, and snowfall (200+ inches annually!) offer skiing, snowboarding, hiking, biking, and paddling opportunities. Historic downtown Houghton is active with locally owned shops, eateries, high-tech companies, community events, and more. We embrace our size, climate, sense of adventure, and originality. Michigan Tech wouldn't be the same anywhere else on earth—and we wouldn't have it any other way.



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