

Social and behavioral science courses

Through the study of the social and behavioral sciences students acquire knowledge of the multiple causes and consequences of human activity. Central to this area of knowledge is a focus on the interaction of sociocultural and individual factors for understanding human thought, communication, and action. The study of the social and behavioral sciences supports the acquisition of knowledge about overt behavior and its underlying individual processes. This area of knowledge also includes those disciplines that analyze how societal developments and community dynamics define the experiences of individuals and of populations.

Criteria

Courses in the social and behavioral sciences will

1. introduce theories that examine human thought and action—humans both as individuals and in various kinds of collectives—and include a historical perspective on the development of theory in the field in question;
2. provide significant focus on the primary scientific methods—quantitative and qualitative--that are used for the collection of data about human thought and action;
3. provide explanation and description of research studies that test, develop, or support social and behavioral theories;
4. engage students in understanding how knowledge from social and behavioral sciences is applied in society.

Student learning outcomes

Students will

1. know basic theoretical frameworks within the particular field of study or discipline;
2. explain social scientific discovery and process, and the ability to explain the primary research methods of the field;
3. connect primary supporting research with a particular theoretical position in the field;
4. apply theoretically-based explanations and solutions to individual behavior or societal phenomena;
5. solve problems by analyzing data, thinking critically, and selecting optimal results.

Note: Courses from many Meredith departments and programs that meet the above criteria may be included in the SBS category.