Hi there!

To finish our tour of Dartmouth’s curriculum, we present **Snapshot #5: Social Sciences**.

But no worries, there’s more – one of the last steps in your curricular exploration will take place on **Thursday, September 12** during New Student Orientation, when each academic department and program will host an **Open House**.

**Explore, Engage, Excel** instructs you to **attend as many Open Houses as possible** – we expect you to take full advantage of September 12 as a day of exploration and engagement!

Talk again soon!
The Department of Anthropology spans the fields of biological anthropology, archaeology, cultural anthropology, and linguistic anthropology. We ask how as a species we got our two legs and big brain that distinguish us from other primates, and why—despite our unity as a species—we live in such diverse yet interdependent societies with often contrasting, if not contrarian, views of the world and ways of living within it.

Anthropology courses focus on human differences that make a difference—food, work, technology, language, community, history, identity, religion, health, politics, environment—then address how and why these make the differences they do. We treat human differences as both commonly derived adaptations of a behaviorally flexible species and cultural truths that demand mutual understanding and engagement. The department sponsors a study abroad program in New Zealand and supports faculty-directly student research with the Claire Garber Goodman Fund.

Location: Silsby Hall, Room 408  
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Phone: (603) 646-3256
Economics provides a framework for understanding human behavior in the face of choices at an individual, organizational, national, or even a global level. Though economics is often associated with business and finance, it has been influential in addressing a much broader range of questions. What is the impact of immigration and trade on local economies? Do pre-school programs help children succeed in school? How long should patents and copyrights last? Does the United States spend too much (or too little) on health care? Why are some nations more prosperous than others?

The Economics Department offers courses in an array of topic areas including international development, business strategy, finance, labor economics, government taxation and spending, international trade, and healthcare markets. The curriculum emphasizes applied statistical work (econometrics) in all of these topic areas. Economics majors learn to ask clear questions and work with economic frameworks and large data sets to provide rigorous answers with a strong emphasis on distinguishing causation from correlation.

**Location:** Rockefeller Center, Room 311  
**Website:** [economics.dartmouth.edu](http://economics.dartmouth.edu)  
**Email:** economics@dartmouth.edu  
**Phone:** (603) 646-2538
Dartmouth has a unique team of education scholars who conduct basic research in the areas of reading development, math and science anxiety remediation, learning and reasoning differences in individuals, and poverty and learning. Research evidence from these domains is producing a better understanding of what powerful learning environments look like as well as the consequences of uninformed instructional interventions. Thanks to this kind of research, policymakers and practitioners can begin to base their decisions about educational practices and institutions on empirical evidence rather than opinions, fashions, and ideologies. Critical national education issues need new strategies and approaches—challenges you will discuss and think about in your education coursework.

Location: Raven House  
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Geography is among the most interdisciplinary of disciplines. It spans the social and natural sciences, examining the many ways that people relate to and transform places and physical environments.

Our faculty members’ specialties include international development, urban studies, food politics, globalization, global health, race and immigration, geopolitics, climate change, water resources, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). All the faculty engage actively in research, whether locally or overseas, and we strongly encourage our students to get involved with hands-on research activities.

Geography majors graduate with a unique perspective on the world and are well-equipped for careers in fields ranging from business and law to journalism, urban planning, and environmental management. Most of our classes have enrollments of twenty-five or less, and most are open to, and indeed welcome, first-year students.

**Location:** Fairchild Hall, Room 117  
**Website:** [geography.dartmouth.edu](http://geography.dartmouth.edu)  
**Email:** kelly.l.palmer@dartmouth.edu  
**Phone:** (603) 646-3378
Welcome to Dartmouth! Aristotle described political science as the overarching science, arguing that it helps us understand who we are as human beings and how we can live happy and productive lives in communities.

Government is an intellectually diverse department where students can study philosophy, international relations, United States government, and politics in every region of the world. Political scientists use a wide range of analytical tools, including statistics, field work, experiments, interviews, public opinion surveys, historical analysis, game theory, legal theory, and much more, to understand enduring questions as well as current events. The diverse skills that students acquire in the department prepare them for graduate and law school, employment in the public and private sector, and life as informed and productive citizens.

Location: Silsby Hall, Room 211
Website: govt.dartmouth.edu
Email: government.department@dartmouth.edu
Phone: (603) 646-2544
Why History? One of the quintessential liberal arts disciplines, History achieves special relevance during periods of global crisis and uncertainty, when perspective and deep understanding lend meaning to the tumultuous events of the day. The Dartmouth History faculty is a group of exceptional researchers and teachers who train students to explore the complex relationships between causes and consequences, to adduce explanations that best fit the evidence, and to construct and articulate nuanced arguments.

With a curriculum that is purposefully broad, our classes range widely over time, region, and approach. The dozen or so introductory classes offered each year function as gateways to a rich set of topical courses. Special opportunities for majors and minors include an acclaimed Foreign Study Program in London; an Honors Program in which each student designs and executes a year-long thesis; and opportunities to collaborate in history-making via projects in oral, digital, and public history.

Website: history.dartmouth.edu

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The Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences offers a major and minor in Psychology and a major and minor in Neuroscience. Our faculty are engaged in cutting-edge research and teach courses related to topics such as social interaction, perception, the physiological bases of behavior, cognitive neuroscience, human and animal learning, and behavior disorders.

PSYC 1 (Introductory Psychology) introduces psychology as the science of behavior and is a prerequisite for the Psychology major.

PSYC 6 (Introduction to Neuroscience) introduces the functioning of the nervous system, from molecular to behavioral levels, and is a prerequisite for the Neuroscience major.

Location: Moore Hall  
Website: pbs.dartmouth.edu  
Email: psychological.and.brain.sciences@dartmouth.edu  
Phone: (603) 646-3181
The Public Policy Minor allows students to learn about and participate in policymaking that makes a difference in the world. Intentionally flexible and broad in scope, the minor is open to undergraduates from all majors, and draws faculty from across the social sciences and interdisciplinary programs. Additionally, distinguished guest scholars and policymakers offer their perspectives during classroom visits, seminars, and dinner discussions.

Undergraduates who minor in public policy describe it as the perfect way to better understand how policy affects all aspects of society, while at the same time pursue a course of study that suits their specific interests in health, energy, international relations, social justice, domestic economy, poverty, gender issues, urban development, law, journalism, education, or the environment. The experiential learning component of each public policy course prepares students to think critically, collaborate in teams, conduct policy research, work with policymakers, and effectively lead policy initiatives. Students learn the process of developing and applying solutions to public policy challenges both domestically and abroad, a practice important to cultivating civically engaged, global leaders.

**Location:** Rockefeller Center, Room 203  
**Website:** [rockefeller.dartmouth.edu/public-policy/public-policy-minor](http://rockefeller.dartmouth.edu/public-policy/public-policy-minor)  
**Email:** jane.dasilva@dartmouth.edu  
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Sociology examines the social relations that shape individual behavior, how we connect with one another, and how individuals and groups make meaningful social change. The Department of Sociology at Dartmouth is staffed by active scholar-teachers working at the forefront of the field. Our faculty teach and do research on some of the most pressing issues of our time, including income inequality, residential segregation, health disparities, race relations, education, work-family balance, globalization, democratization, and more. When you take courses in Dartmouth’s Sociology Department, you’ll be introduced to a unique way of asking questions, examining problems, and viewing the world. Dartmouth’s Department of Sociology is about learning analytical thinking in the best tradition of the liberal arts.

Location: Blunt Alumni Center, Room 302  
Website: sociology.dartmouth.edu  
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