Welcome to the Faculty of Social Science at Western

ssc.uwo.ca/prospective_students/index.html

The world is changing at a rapid pace. Advances in technology, changing population structures, increasing international movement of people, technology and capital, and changes to physical environments have serious implications for the world. These changes impact the economy, business, government and politics, social environments and physical living conditions.

These changes will define the world going forward, and will define the human condition. Social Science research and education respond to the changing world. Social Science focuses on the human aspect, providing insight, information, and data into how our decisions impact the world, and how we are, in turn, affected by trends and developments. Social Science research informs how businesses, governments and non-profits make decisions and policy. Understanding social science helps you understand the world.

When you study Social Science at Western you will embark on an academic journey like no other. We offer unique learning opportunities to tailor your education to fit with your personal strengths and career ambitions.

One of the largest and most diverse Social Science Faculties in Canada, we have eight core Departments – Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, DAN Department of Management & Organizational Studies, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology – and the interdisciplinary Department of Women’s Studies (which is also part of Arts & Humanities), along with the Indigenous Studies program.

Where Do You Want to Make a Difference?
Preparing for the Future

We are committed to developing graduates who can adapt to the rapidly changing global environment. A Social Science degree provides a variety of skills that are instrumental in responding to the demands of a world that is continually transforming.

Social Science is focused on addressing the world’s biggest issues and provides answers to some of the world’s biggest questions.

Through Social Science courses, students gain soft skills important in the world, and useful in careers.

Social scientists are trained to be problems solvers, and understanding social science provides context to many major problems. Social Science students learn more than facts and information; they learn how to ask important questions, how to research, how to think critically, how to develop and defend a position, and how to communicate.

Social scientists do not just look at the causes of a problem, but also consider the human aspect, considering how solutions to problems will impact people.

Social Science courses can teach students these important career skills:

- Analytical ability,
- Communication skills – verbal and in written reports,
- Data collection, analysis and interpretation,
- Numeracy and statistics,
- Problem solving,
- Project management,
- Quantitative and qualitative research,
- Team work.

Work Experience

We are continually working to build bridges between academic learning and real-world experiences. The Student Success Centre offers career services and counsellors to explore your options.

Western’s Career Services helps you:

- Build résumés and write cover letters,
- Develop interview skills,
- Discover career possibilities,
- Gain focus and clarity in your career search,
- Translate your academic interests into a career path.

44% of leaders in corporate, non-profit and government roles studied Social Science, according to a study conducted by the British Council, which compared the educational backgrounds of 1,700 people from 30 countries.
Putting Social Science to work

Along with strong analytical and methodological skills, social skills are in demand in the workplace, and in the world.

Based on a 2018 survey conducted by LinkedIn, 57% of senior leaders say soft skills are needed more than hard skills. Soft skills include creativity, persuasion, collaboration, adaptability and time management.

According to the LinkedIn data, many ‘hard skills’ in demand include analytical reasoning, people management, and marketing and communication skills.

A study published by the National Bureau of Economic Research showed that the fastest-growing jobs in the U.S. since 1980 have been in jobs that require social skills. These jobs are more difficult to automate and represent potential for continued growth in the future.

An education in Social Science can help students develop these essential skills.

Possible careers for Social Science graduates:
• Advertising/media/marketing
• Archivist
• Business consultant
• Community activism/development
• Consumer advocacy
• Counselling
• Editorial work
• Education/teacher
• Family policy
• Gerontology
• Government
• Intelligence analyst
• Lawyer
• Political analyst
• Professor
• Statistician
• Urban planning

Extraordinary Alumni
• Jordan Banks (BA’90); Global Head of Vertical Strategy and Managing Director of Facebook Canada
• Perrin Beatty (BA’71); President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce
• Andrea Canning (BA’94); Correspondent for NBC’s Dateline
• Margaret Chan (BA’73, MD’77, DSc’99); Director-General of the World Health Organization
• Ken Chu (BACS’96, LLD’07); Chairman and CEO of Mission Hills Group
• Craig Cohon (BA’85); Vice-Chairman, Cirque du Soleil Russia
• Jack Cown (BA’64, LLD’00); Former Chancellor, Western University
• Aubrey Dan (BACS’85); Founder and President of Dancap Private Equity Inc.
• Vassy Kapelos (BA’04); Host of CBC’s Power & Politics
• Randy Lai (BA’93); Managing Director of McDonald’s Hong Kong
• Farah Mohamed (MA’96); CEO, Malala Fund
• William Morneau (BA’86); Federal Minister of Finance
• Chris O’Neill (BA’95); CEO of Evernote
• Stephen S. Poloz (MA’79, PhD’82); Governor of the Bank of Canada
• Glenn Stevens (MA’85, LLD’14); Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia
Anthropology is dedicated to exploring the unity and diversity of humanity, wherever and whenever we have lived.

Through complementary pursuits in four connected subfields – Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology and Sociocultural Anthropology – we study people as both biological and cultural beings, making use of a variety of fieldwork and lab-based research methods, and drawing inspiration from the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities.

Examples of topics studied include: human evolution, diversity and adaptability; human relationships with non-human primates; culture in prehistoric and contemporary societies around the world; language and power; globalization; social determinants of health; gender and sexuality in cross-cultural perspective; cultural resource management; and research design and methods.

By participating in field-courses, lab-work, community-engaged learning projects, and department-sponsored workshops, students develop invaluable skills and hands-on experience in a variety of research methods and approaches.

Studying anthropology encourages an appreciation of the fundamental complexity of human behaviour by enabling a broad understanding of humans in all our diversity. At Western, students of anthropology develop critical-thinking skills and practical experience relevant to careers in healthcare, law, business, public policy development, cultural resource management, museums, non-profit organizations, and all work that requires intercultural understanding.
First-Year Courses

Anthropology 1020 – Many Ways of Being Human
In this full-year, two-term, introduction to Anthropology students explore the discipline by considering past and present humans as cultural and biological beings.

Anthropology 1021 A/B, 1025 F/G – Introduction to Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology
In this one-term introduction to two of Anthropology’s subfields, students explore the place of humans in nature and prehistory.

Anthropology 1022 A/B, 1026 F/G – Introduction to Biological Anthropology and Archaeology
In this one-term introduction to two of Anthropology’s subfields, students explore shared human experiences of social life and communication as well as the diversity of human cultures and languages.

Anthropology 1027 A/B – Introduction to Linguistics
An introduction to the basic concepts and methods of linguistics. This course is a prerequisite for subsequent linguistics courses in the Department of Anthropology and/or the Linguistics program.

Sample Upper-Year Courses

- Great Archaeological Sites
- Anthropology of Disasters
- Language Revitalization in Practice
- Anthropology of Zoos
- Reading Life and Death through the Human Body
- Anthropology of Tourism
- Scientific and Cultural Analysis of Human Mummies
- Language, Gender and Sexuality

Our strength is people

Ashna Ali, Anthropology student

In the final year of her Anthropology studies, Ashna Ali participated in a Language Revitalization in Practice field course. Through the course, she worked to digitize eight Oneida-language children’s books originally written in the 1970s. She recorded elders reading the books, and converted the books to an e-book format with interactive elements.

Ali felt the course was an “eye-opening experience” and helped her develop a better understanding of Indigenous communities. It also gave her a better appreciation for applying what she learned in class; “For service work, we often take on what we think is best; now we are able to work directly with the community and deliver what they want,” said Ali.

Jay Stock
Professor, Department of Anthropology

Stock’s research and teaching focus on topics in Biological Anthropology, including human evolution, adaptability, and our species’ earliest migrations.

Randa Farah
Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology

Farah’s research and teaching focus on topics in Sociocultural Anthropology, including cultures of the Middle East, forced migration, and the lived experiences of refugees around the world.
Our programs provide a unique interdisciplinary approach to management study, emphasizing the social science and evidence-based foundations of management education. The Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies (BMOS) degree combines a strong foundation in one of six core areas of business education with a broader educational perspective from the Social Sciences and other fields.

DAN Management is the first adaptation of Evidence-Based Management (EBM) for management or business education in Canada. EBM brings critical focus to our program and prepares our graduates to make meaningful contributions to management decisions and practices in the organizations they join.

The Commercial Aviation Management (CAM) program offers a unique combination of academic and applied instruction. CAM students receive an advanced education in aviation management with the option of simultaneously completing an Integrated Commercial Pilot License.

The DAN Department of Management & Organizational Studies is named in honour of Aubrey Dan (BACS ‘85). In 2017, Dan renewed his support for DAN Management, and the Faculty of Social Science, through a second $5-million gift. The gift created three Endowed Research Chairs, and two endowed Distinguished Lectures.

Courses completed during your studies count toward professional designations, such as the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) and Certified Human Resources Professional (CHRP).
First-Year in DAN Management

DAN Management

Students in DAN Management enrol in a common first year. The first-year DAN Management courses cover a broad spectrum of business knowledge and students are introduced to related Social Science disciplines.

5 first-year courses:

• **1.0 course**: MOS 1021 A/B and 1023 A/B;
• **1.0 course from**: Calculus 1000 A/B, 1301 A/B, 1500 A/B, 1501 A/B; Mathematics 1225 A/B, 1228 A/B, 1229 A/B, 1600 A/B;
• **2.0 courses**: in Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Women’s Studies, depending on planned field of study
• **1.0 course** numbered 1000-1999.

By the end of the first year, students can select the area they would like to pursue, through the Intent to Register process.

Commercial Aviation Management

Entry into Commercial Aviation Management (CAM) within the DAN Management is limited and highly competitive.

All students interested in Commercial Aviation Management must apply through the Ontario Universities’ Application Centre using the program code EDF for those interested in the flight option or EDN for those who are interested in the non-flight option.

5 first-year courses:

• **1.5 course**: MOS 1021 A/B, MOS 1022 F/G and 1023 A/B;
• **1.0 course from**: Calculus 1000 A/B, 1301 A/B, 1500 A/B, 1501 A/B; Mathematics 1225 A/B, 1228 A/B, 1229 A/B, 1600 A/B;
• **1.0 course**: Economics 1021 A/B and Economics 1022 A/B
• **1.5 full-courses** or equivalent numbered 1000-1999.

Our strength is people

Sarah Kwon, Accounting student

“I want to take advantage of all the opportunities that I am offered,” said Sarah Kwon.

Kwon, an international student from Korea, is completing her Accounting degree in DAN Management. During her time at Western, Kwon has participated in a wide variety of experiential learning opportunities. Kwon was part of Soph for the 2017-18 school year. She took part in the Alternative Spring Break program two times, once as a participant and once as a student team leader.

During the 2018-2019 school year, Kwon spent a semester at Radboud University in the Netherlands, in a study abroad opportunity. “The study abroad time changed my perspective on learning,” Kwon said.

To better prepare for a career, Kwon is completing an 8-month internship with Formet Industries. “I’m having the best time of my life so far and looking forward to the upcoming future,” said Kwon.

Geoff Wood, Professor, DAN Management

The world is likely to undergo major changes in the coming years and decades: global warming, the end of internal combustion vehicles, growth in antibiotic resistance, political uncertainty, and more. Geoffrey Wood researches how firms and society can best be prepared for these changes.
Department of Economics

economics.uwo.ca

The central idea of economics is that human behaviour is driven by decisions on how to allocate scarce resources among competing uses. This idea helps us to understand topics ranging from consumer behaviour, finance, and macroeconomic policy, to crime, marriage, sports, poverty, and the environment.

The Department of Economics offers undergraduate programs that are designed for motivated students who wish to be challenged. Graduates of these programs learn strong, versatile skills that prepare them to pursue careers in fields such as business, finance, economics, government, public policy, international affairs, and law.

Microeconomic theory studies the allocation of resources through models such as demand and supply. It examines the choices of consumers and firms, and the effects of government programs and policies on markets.

Macroeconomic theory considers the national and world economies. It applies economic tools and models to address macroeconomic challenges such as financial crises, trade imbalances, unemployment, climate change, and income inequality.

Programs

Economics
(Honours Specialization, Specialization, Major, Minor)

Financial Economics
(Major)

Global Economics
(Honours Specialization)

Politics, Philosophy, and Economics – Economics concentration (PPE-E) – ppe.uwo.ca
(Honours Specialization)

Combined Degree Options

Honours Business Administration (HBA) combined with any of:
• Honours Specialization in Economics,
• Honours Specialization in Global Economics, or
• Honours Specialization in PPE-E

Graduates from the Economics department have gone on to hold key appointments in Central Banks around the world. Stephen Poloz is the current Governor of the Bank of Canada. Others have served as deputy governors. Glenn Stevens is the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

The Honours Specialization in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics is intended as a selective and top-quality program that prepares students for professional and graduate programs and leadership roles in domestic or international politics, law, public policy, economics and business.
First-Year Courses

Economics 1021 A/B – Principles of Microeconomics
The problem of scarcity and its implications, choice; opportunity cost, specialization and exchange; supply and demand; economic choices of households and firms; competition and monopoly; resource markets; public policy; income distribution.

Economics 1022 A/B – Principles of Macroeconomics
National income; aggregate supply and aggregate demand; inflation, unemployment and interest rates; money and monetary institutions; economic growth; trade balance of payments; exchange rates.

Sample Upper-Year Courses

- Econometrics
- Macroeconomic Policy
- Law and Economics
- Industrial Organization
- International Trade and Finance
- Labour Economics
- Public Finance
- Political Economy
- Economics of Developing Countries

Our strength is people

Greg Lee, HBA/Economics alumnus

“Most universities are pretty much the same when it comes to learning opportunities. But when it comes to great faculty and caring society, Western is still my top choice.”

Greg Lee graduated with a degree in Economics and Business Administration in June 2019, and during his career as a student at Western, he focused on learning through as many means as possible.

Lee came to Western in 2011, studying Economics. To build on that knowledge, Lee enrolled in the Ivey Business School in 2014 and enlisted in the Korean military in 2016 for two years.

“If business school showed me a sample of what the real corporate world looks like, enlisting in the military showed me a sample of what the real population looks like,” said Lee.

Bruno Salcedo
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

Salcedo is researching the use of fake news. His research suggests that the low cost and effort needed to post and share information online has been highly detrimental, both for people looking for information, and for institutions that waste large amounts of resources trying to control the narrative.
Department of Geography

geography.uwo.ca

Geography is a broad discipline that adopts an integrative approach to examine our environment from both social and natural science perspectives.

Geographers work and express their work in a spatial context, often using modern mapping and analytical tools like satellite navigation and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Our programs provide you with diverse options for education in both the social and physical science of geography, as well as training in techniques such as GIS and remote sensing.

You can pursue your interest in geography by working towards either a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree. This integrative perspective prepares Western geographers for employment in a wide range of occupations and advanced studies.

The Urban Development program offers an intensive yet balanced education on the nature of urbanism, the processes affecting urban growth, and the methods and techniques used to analyze urban markets, land use and urbanization.

Geography students participate in field trips and research projects in London, across Canada and around the world. Through many of our courses, students get hands on experience working with Geographic Information Systems and big data analytics, both of which are growing fields.

Programs

- **Geography**
  (Honours Specialization (BA or BSc), Specialization, Major, Minor)

- **Geographic Information Science**
  (Honours Specialization (BA or BSc), Major)

- **Urban Development**
  (Honours Specialization)

- **Environment and Health**
  (Major)

- **Physical Geography**
  (Major)

- **Geography and Commercial Aviation Management**
  (Honours Specialization, Specialization)

Combined Degree Options

Honours Business Administration (HBA) and Geography or Urban Development

With a focus on both human and the physical dimensions, studying Geography can prepare you for careers in fields such as, urban planning, ecology, environmental consulting, GIS analysis, real estate management, policy analysis, and international development.
First-Year Courses

Geography 1300 A/B – Introduction to the Physical Environment
This course is an introduction to the phenomena and processes of Earth’s atmosphere system that underlie human environment interactions and environmental change: the physical geography of Earth. Topics include: the atmosphere and fundamentals of weather and climate, water in the environment, Earth surface processes, biogeography, and human appropriation and modification of Earth-atmosphere systems.

Geography 1400 F/G – Introduction to the Human Environment
This course introduces students to the central problems, concepts, methods and applications of human geography. It pays particular attention to the ways humans interact with the world; for example, population growth, use of natural resources, culturally based activities, urbanization and settlements, agricultural activities, and industrialization.

Geography 1500 F/G – Environment and Development Challenges
This course examines environmental change over long periods of Earth’s history, considering both physical processes and human impacts, providing a basis for understanding some of the world’s most pressing environment and development challenges, such as biodiversity loss, climate change, energy use, and persistent hunger and inequality.

Sample Upper-Year Courses

- Animal Geography
- Conservation and Development
- Climate Change
- Digital Technology, Society and Environment
- Energy and Power
- Geocomputation

- Global Agriculture and Food Systems
- Healthy Cities
- Public Health and Environment
- Real Estate and the Cities
- Urban Economic Development and Policy

Our strength is people

Destiny Allen-Green, Geography alumna

Coming to Western as a Geography student, Destiny Allen-Green let her academic curiosity guide her. Allen-Green originally wanted to study Chemistry, Engineering or Geography. Upon researching the Department of Geography at Western, she decided upon Geography because there “were many more different module options”, she said.

She was able to participate in various research projects and had many hands-on learning opportunities. During her time as an undergraduate student, Destiny received two NSERC USRA grants for field work, which involved water sampling in southwestern Ontario. These research opportunities led Destiny to explore career options allowing her to be working in the field. She is interested in getting a better understanding of watershed management and understanding how to protect the environment while also allowing development.

Chantelle Richmond
Associate Professor, Department of Geography

Richmond, a Health Geographer, studies Aboriginal health, and examines the social determinants of health and the health impacts of environmental change using a community-based research approach with Indigenous communities.
History is the study of past human activity – social, cultural, economic, political, intellectual, military, and anything else you can think of. The range of historical study is limited only by the documents and artifacts that have survived to tell us their stories.

In lectures and small tutorials, you can explore ideas, ask questions, and develop skills that provide a firm basis for success: writing, speaking, argumentation, and analysis.

The Honours Specialization in International Relations examines the connections between peoples and states in historical and contemporary contexts. It is a unique interdisciplinary program offered in the Departments of History and Political Science.

American Studies explores the values, society, and cultural expressions of the people of the United States. It looks at literature, history, popular culture, and politics to better understand the character of American identity.

Public History involves understanding how people engage with the past and how to communicate it to larger audiences. It is history experienced by everyone – the history we encounter in museums, historic sites, movies, TV, magazines and graphic novels, games, and online.

The study of history is not just learning about what happened years ago. We are all products of the past, and everything we do is conditioned by historical forces that may go back centuries. History tells us how we got to today – and may help us chart a course for tomorrow.

Through the development of critical thinking and communication skills, you can prepare for a career in law, business, media, social services, non-profits, education, Foreign Service, international development, government, and more.
First-Year Courses

History 1401 E – Modern Europe, 1715 to the Present: Conflict and Transformation
Examines events and forces that shaped the lives of Europeans over the past three centuries, including the French and Industrial Revolutions; the Napoleonic wars; liberalism; socialism; nationalism; women’s emancipation movements; imperialism, national rivalries and war; the Russian Revolution, Communism, and the collapse of the Soviet Union; Nazism; European integration.

History 1601 E – Survey of East Asian History
The history of China, Korea and Japan from earliest development until modern times. The course emphasizes that although they are independent nations their histories are intertwined.

History 1807 – Introduction to the History of Business and Commerce
This course examines the history of business and capitalism from the late Middle Ages to the present day. Particular attention will be paid to the history of credit, banking, the stock market, the corporation, and globalization.

History 1810 E – Wars that Changed the World
This course examines transformational wars in the history of the world in detail, both in lectures and in small discussion groups that will also focus on the development of foundational analytical and writing skills.

Sample Upper-Year Courses
- Greed is Good: The History of Modern Capitalism
- History and Civilization of Medieval Islam
- Killing Fields: Genocide in Modern History
- Plague, Pox and Flu: Disease in Global History
- Sexual History: Expression, Regulations and Rights in the West since 1800

Our strength is people

Marisa Coulton. International Relations student

“There are so many opportunities for personal development, and to hone your passions,” said Marisa Coulton.

Marisa Coulton completed her interdisciplinary degree, studying International Relations and French.

Coulton was the Editor of The Mirror, the undergraduate journal in the Department of History. Coulton took her learning opportunities overseas, spending nine months in the south of France as part of an international exchange.

“My Western experience has been unforgettable.”

Bill Turkel
Professor, Department of History

Turkel is a pioneer in digital research who marries historical analysis with ground-breaking work in computational analysis and reverse engineering. A member of the Royal Society of Canada’s College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists, Turkel uses courses on espionage and 21st-century history to show students that understanding the past isn’t necessarily what or where they thought it was.
Indigenous Studies Program

Indigenous Studies is a multidisciplinary program that is designed to provide you with the foundational knowledge and research experience to better understand and address the key issues that are important to Indigenous people in Canada and abroad. While our emphasis is on the Canadian context, that priority is augmented by explorations of Indigenous issues in other areas of the world.

Since its inception, the program has welcomed an ethnically diverse undergraduate population making our classrooms rich and vibrant spaces of learning and interaction. Throughout the year, you will benefit from visiting Elders and guest scholars, in addition to our experienced faculty, all of whom bring a wealth of first-hand experience to the classroom.

You may either focus on Indigenous Studies or combine your program with almost any other undergraduate program.

Our small class sizes offer you more interaction with your professors.

All students, including Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, are welcomed to share their perspectives in our program.

We prepare our graduates for careers in the private, non-profit and government sectors. An undergraduate degree in Indigenous Studies will also provide students with the opportunity to gain admission into professional schools such as law, medicine, health science, education, and business.
First-Year Course

Indigenous Studies 1020 E – Introduction to Indigenous Studies
This course is meant to introduce you to the field of Indigenous Studies as an academic discipline and as an area of study. Here, you will be introduced to a variety of topics from academic and community perspectives led by Indigenous scholars, cultural experts, Elders, and researchers. This experience will help you to understand the historical and contemporary relationship between the Canadian government and the Inuit, First Nations and Métis people, while recognizing Indigenous people as agents who participate in Canadian society in their own way, and who have viable and vibrant cultures of their own.

Sample Upper-Year Courses

- Introductory Mohawk Language
- Indigenous Peoples, Globalization and the Environment
- Cultures of the Caribbean
- Contemporary Indigenous Issues: From the 1969 White Paper to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Mohawk Metaphor: What We Say – What We Mean
- The Iroquoians: Their History and Culture
- Doing Research With Indigenous Communities
- Language Revitalization
- Indigenous Legal and Political Issues
- Indigenous Literature

Our strength is people

Riley Kennedy, Indigenous Studies/Sociology student

Riley Kennedy is a member of the Oneida Nation of the Thames, and is going into his second year of Indigenous Studies and Sociology at Western University.

“My Western experience has been amazing,” said Kennedy. “Going to a research intensive university allows me to have experiences that many other students would not be able to have.”

Along with being a member of the Indigenous Student Association executive and a student senator on the University Senate, Kennedy has worked on two research teams focused on Indigenous community health, and has conducted his own research on community-based participatory research as a methodology.

“These projects are important to me because it allows me to build relationships with communities across Canada, and build relationships within the university, that can be meaningful and that can make an impact in the communities.”

Janice Forsyth
Director, Indigenous Studies Program

Forsyth researches the history of Indigenous physical culture, and how it can be used to understand the history of Indigenous-settler relations in Canada. This research can help identify barriers to participation, and help communities redevelop a sense of being a distinct people.
Department of Political Science

politicalscience.uwo.ca

The influence of politics on our lives is inescapable. The policies and principles which governments endorse and follow shape our everyday lives. The study of Political Science provides you with a chance to examine our lives in this context.

Political Science explores how communities make collective decisions. You can study ideas, activities and problems associated with the governance of nations, states and societies – both past and present. Learn about the impact of globalization, the making of American foreign policy, the role of the courts in politics, political development in the Muslim world and the multi-level governance of Canadian cities.

In your program you can choose to focus on Canadian politics, political theory, public policy, comparative politics, international relations, and local government.

A Political Science degree offers a complex set of skills. Research, analysis, critical-thinking, writing, problem-solving, and public-speaking skills figure highly in our courses.

Programs

Political Science
   (Honours Specialization, Major, Minor)

Democratic Governance
   (Honours Specialization, Major)

Global Justice
   (Honours Specialization, Major)

International Relations – internationalrelations.uwo.ca
   (Honours Specialization)

Politics, Philosophy, and Economics – Politics and Philosophy concentration (PPE-P) – ppe.uwo.ca
   (Honours Specialization)

Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction – tjcentre.uwo.ca
   (Minor)

Combined Degree Options

Honours Business Administration (HBA) combined with any of:
   • Political Science,
   • International Relations, or
   • PPE-P

A degree in Political Science prepares you for a wide range of jobs in many different fields including federal/provincial/local government, business, journalism, broadcasting, international relations, policy analysis, market research, interest group advocacy, and law.

Political Science students study more than institutions. They study democratization, and political trends, important topics in the age of Populism, the Trump Phenomenon and Brexit.
First-Year Course

Political Science 1020 E – Introduction to Political Science
An introduction to the study of politics. The course focuses on ideas (including politics, power, democracy, justice, freedom), ideologies (including liberalism, conservatism, socialism, feminism), institutions (including the nation-state, constitutions, legislatures, executives, the judiciary), political mobilization (participation, elections, parties, interest groups), and research skills, emphasizing Canadian, comparative, and international examples.

Sample Upper-Year Courses

• Business and Government
• Global Climate Change Politics
• Global Violence and Injustice
• International Relations

• Media, Democracy and Freedom
• Politics & Pop Culture
• Power in the City
• Women, Sex and Politics

Our strength is people

Vassy Kapelos, Political Science alumna

Vassy Kapelos completed her degree in Political Science at Western in 2004. She is now the host of CBC’s flagship daily political program, Power & Politics.

“I love politics and it sort of underscored all of that. I loved Western and come from a long line of people who went to Western; I lived the Western Experience to the max. In addition to the academic advantages I had, it just sort of rounded me out as a person. It set me up socially and with the skills I needed to expand my life,” Kapelos said. “A lot of the classes I was able to take at Western upped the ante for me, and, if anything, just increased my desire to learn more about it.”

Laura Stephenson
Professor, Department of Political Science

Stephenson specializes in political behaviour, both Canadian and comparative. Her research is focused on understanding how institutions and context influence attitudes, electoral preferences and engagement with politics. Stephenson is co-directing the Consortium on Electoral Democracy, researching what Canadians feel about democracy and electoral issues.
Psychology is commonly viewed as the study of individuals with psychological problems (clinical psychology). However, psychologists also examine behaviour from a variety of different perspectives ranging from how our brain controls our behaviour (behavioural and cognitive neuroscience) to how we interact in small groups (social psychology).

Psychologists look at how we perceive, process and remember (cognitive psychology; sensation and perception) and how behaviour changes over our lifetime (developmental psychology). We examine individual differences in behaviour (personality psychology), and apply our knowledge of psychology to understanding behaviour in the workplace (industrial/organizational psychology).

Even different kinds of animals are studied to see what insights they might offer into human behaviour. The Department of Psychology at Western offers a comprehensive undergraduate program providing courses in all these different branches of psychology.

In the 2019 QS ratings, our Psychology programs were ranked within the top 100, worldwide. Many of our psychologists in Cognitive Neuroscience conduct research in Western’s Brain and Mind Institute, widely recognized as a national and international leader in cognitive neuroscience research.

Programs
Psychology
(Honours Specialization (BA or BSc), Major, Minor)
Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience
(Honours Specialization – BSc)

Related Programs Available in Science
Animal Behaviour
(Honours Specialization – BSc)
Neuroscience - schulich.uwo.ca/bsc-neuroscience
(Honours Specialization – BSc)

Combined Degree Option
Honours Business Administration (HBA) and Psychology

An undergraduate degree in Psychology is an excellent stepping stone for graduate work in counselling or psychology, or advanced training for other fields, such as business, communicative disorders, criminology, education, industrial relations, law, management science, medicine, physical and occupational therapy, and social work.
First-Year Course

Psychology 1000 – Introduction to Psychology
An introductory survey of the methods and findings of modern scientific psychology. The following topics will be covered: history and methodology, biological psychology, sensation and perception, learning and motivation, verbal and cognitive processes, developmental psychology, social psychology, individual differences (intelligence and personality), and clinical psychology.

Sample Upper-Year Courses

• Child Development
• Drugs and Behaviour
• Human Sexuality
• Introduction to Animal Cognition
• Mind Matters: Thought, Memory and Language
• Psychology of Gender

• Psychology of Language
• Psychology of Thinking
• The Maladjusted Mind
• The Psychology of Crime and Corrections
• The Psychology of Physical Health and Illness
• Understanding Yourself and Others

Our strength is people

Daniel Kharlas, Psychology alumnus

Kharlas chose to study Psychology at Western because of its reputation for student experience, and for the research opportunities available.

Through his studies, Kharlas was introduced to a number of different technologies for exploring the brain. His research interests in novel technologies led him to explore Virtual Reality. He followed this interest in VR to open his own business, VRcadia, which specializes in introducing VR technology to new users. Kharlas is particularly interested in using VR in meditation and other wellness applications.

The research strength of the department provided Kharlas with a better understanding to the depths of research possibilities. He applies these lessons in his business, as he works to improve customer service and expand to new areas.

“It really opened up my world to how many different areas of research there were,” said Kharlas. “It gave me an understanding of the different pathways I could take.”

Samantha Joel
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

Joel researches how people make decisions about their romantic relationships, and what sort of factors people take into account when they try to decide to pursue a potential date, invest in a new relationship or break up with a romantic partner.

Ryan Stevenson
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

Stevenson’s research focuses on identifying and addressing sensory process differences in children with autism. Stevenson tries to measure sensory sensitivity in children with and without autism, and hopes to create tools to offer remediation to sensory issues.
Sociology is the study of how society influences what we do and how we think. Sociologists study social behaviour and relationships in an attempt to understand and explain differences, for example, between men and women, the young and the old, rich and poor, people of different nationalities or ethnicities. Comparing and analyzing the different ways that people live and work together is an important aspect of sociology.

You will discover that there are few topics that our courses do not explore. Sub-areas of Sociology include social inequality, demography, health, work, identity, and deviance.

The recent rise in populism, declining rates of social mobility, mass ethnic migration – such as the Syrian crisis – the gender pay gap, minority rights and public opinion, and population growth and its implications are all topics that sociologists inform us about. Studying Sociology helps you to understand yourself and your social world better.

Our department specializes in empirical research on social inequality and demography. We have a particular strength in the quantitative analysis of data. Our graduates obtain skills that are coveted in business, government and non-profit organizations.

The rise in inequality has implications for civil society and business, and is an important topic of study for sociologists and sociology students.

Areas of Study

Sociology
(Honours Specialization, Specialization, Major, Minor)

Criminology
(Honours Specialization, Major, Minor)

A degree in Sociology can prepare you for a career in business, government, social services, market research and policy development. Graduates from the Sociology program have gone on to careers in marketing for companies such as Air Canada and Shoppers Drug Mart, with research firms such as Ipsos, and software companies such as Salesforce.
**First-Year Courses**

**Sociology 1020, 1021 E – Introduction to Sociology**
An examination of the major theoretical perspectives in the field of Sociology, methods of empirical investigation of social phenomena, socialization, group structure, principles of social organization, community structure, population and social change.

**Sociology 1025 A/B – Society and You**
The sociological imagination helps us see how society shapes our lives and how we, as individuals, can change society. It also helps us understand the relationship between problems we face as individuals and issues in society as a whole. We focus on three core issues: inequality, institutions, and social change.

**Sociology 1026 F/G – Controversies in Sociology**
Conceptions of ourselves and society are often based on taken-for-granted meanings. This course critically analyzes these meanings in order to disclose what likely are their underlying economic, political, religious, educational and gender/sexual themes.

**Sociology 1027 A/B – Life is not Always Fair**
Challenge commonly held assumptions about individual success, talent and merit. Students will be introduced to important sociological debates about the nature of inequality, and how different social institutions and processes are implicated in the creation and maintenance of this inequality.

**Sample Upper-Year Courses**
- Advanced Statistical Analysis
- Current Issues in Stratification
- Development and Health Inequalities
- Gender and Society
- International Migration
- Population Change in Canada
- Sociology of Education

**Our strength is people**

**MacKenzie Vozza, Sociology alumna**
As a Sociology student, MacKenzie Vozza has made the most of her Western Experience. In her third year, she participated in an exchange through Western International, living and studying in Southampton, England for six months. Through Western’s Alternative Spring Break program, MacKenzie was part of a group that travelled to Lima, Peru volunteering in the poorest regions of the country.

“I have also participated in experiential learning locally through Western’s Learning It Together (LiT) program. This program involves going into areas of lower socio-economic status in the local community and providing children with programs to teach them healthy eating and improve their math/language skills.”

MacKenzie worked closely with faculty members to organize events and research areas of inequality in the community.

**Rachel Margolis**
*Associate Professor, Department of Sociology*
Margolis wants to know how a change in family makeup or an aging population will affect society. Margolis is examining how kinship networks are thinning in North America and Europe, and the policy implications this may have.
Explore the dynamics that shape your everyday experiences as a gendered person in contemporary culture. In our courses you will learn how to develop a critical perspective that takes factors such as sex, gender, sexuality, race, class and (dis)ability into account. You might find your worldview transformed as you apply these perspectives to your study in other classes and to all aspects of your life.

Our courses reflect the expanding field of feminist research including: feminist theory; sexuality studies; health, queer and legal issues; philosophy; violence against women; women and equity in the workplace; and women and the creative arts.

By encouraging the development of critical-thinking skills, our discipline asks you to consider how knowledge gets produced and to what effect, with a focus on how gendered understandings shape and shift our world in relation to local experience, historical realities and the global present.

Areas of Study

Women’s Studies
(Honours Specialization, Specialization, Major, Minor)

Global Gender Studies
(Honours Specialization)

Sexuality Studies
(Major, Minor)

Feminist, Queer, and Critical Race Theory
(Minor)

The Department promotes feminist scholarship through provision for resident scholars, a Distinguished Speakers Series, faculty colloquia, and annual conferences for both undergraduate and graduate students.

Women’s Studies and Feminist Research provides you with the analytical and practical tools that enable you to engage critically and responsibly with the world, to interact respectfully with others, providing excellent preparation for professional schools such as law, journalism and social work, or careers in education and public analysis.
First-Year Courses

Women's Studies 1020 E – Introduction to Gender and Women’s Studies
An introductory and interdisciplinary survey of the status of women in contemporary, historical, and cross-cultural perspectives, this course explores how gender and other differences are established or challenged through various institutional and individual practices.

Women's Studies 1021 F/G – Introduction to Sexuality Studies
An introduction to current social and political issues in sexuality studies, with a focus on contemporary issues around sexuality, including formation of sexual identities, sexual practices and politics, policing of sexuality, questions of sexual diversity, and the historical and global nature of ideas and controversies around sexuality.

Women's Studies 1022 F/G – Gender, Justice, Change
This course will introduce students to the ways in which movements for justice and change are informed by and take up gender issues in matters of education, health, poverty, globalization, the environment, etc.

Women's Studies 1023 F/G – Gay Life and Culture in the 21st Century: Beyond Adam and Steve
Examine many of the issues affecting gay men, such as sexual politics and practices, body image, health, consumer culture, social media, television and film, and intersections with race and class.

Women's Studies 1024 F/G – Introduction to Equity, Diversity and Human Rights
This course surveys theory and practice in the fields of equity, diversity, and human rights as they are taken up in institutional domains such as social work, education, and law and in schools of thought such as critical race studies, feminism and gender studies, sexuality studies, and disability studies.

Sample Upper-Year Courses

• Intimate Relations: Sex, Gender and Love
• Women and Popular Culture: Garbo to Gaga
• Feminist theory and practice across the Disciplines

• Making Men: Critical Studies in Masculinity
• Intro to Transgender Studies
• Intro to Girlhood Studies

Our strength is people

Levi Hord, WSFR alumx

Levi Hord was named a recipient of the 2018 Rhodes Scholarship, an international postgraduate award for students to study at the University of Oxford.

Over the course of their undergraduate studies at Western, Hord has undertaken extensive research on the use of gender-neutral language in transgender communities, and how linguistic identity expression varies based on grammatical gender systems. Hord hopes to play an integral part in breaking through the social and intellectual barriers that remain for those who subvert the binary gender system.

Wendy Pearson
Associate Professor, Department of Women’s Studies and Feminist Research

Western professor Wendy Pearson was recently named a 2019 recipient of the prestigious 3M National Teaching Fellowship, one of 10 recipients nationwide. The award goes to an elite group each year who show excellence in teaching philosophy. Her teaching and research engage a range of fields, including film studies, feminist theory, cultural studies, queer theory, science fiction and Indigenous studies.
Canada’s Best Student Experience

welcome.uwo.ca/student_experience/index.html

Western is committed to providing Canada’s Best Student Experience. The Western Experience develops leaders, creates a global context for learning, and values research and the discovery of new knowledge that has a tangible impact on society.

Leadership Opportunities

The Social Science Students’ Council (SSSC) is a great place to meet new friends and work together to enhance your program at Western. Members of the SSSC work on behalf of all students to ensure their voices are heard.

Within each Social Science department, there is a student association that will provide you with another forum in which you can share ideas. These groups often organize trips that will supplement your formal education.

Student Clubs

Joining a club gives you a chance to discover new passions, meet new friends and be part of a larger community. There are nearly 200 clubs on campus. Whether you want to be involved in athletics, cultural or faith-based groups, music and performing arts, politics and social justice, volunteering causes, networking groups or interest-based clubs, there is a place for you.

Sports and Athletics

Western Mustangs have 46 Varsity athletic teams representing the University. Many Varsity programs lead Canadian universities in the number of championships won.

Taking part in intramural sports is a great way to get involved. Participants can enjoy a fun, equitable and safe playing environment.

Experiential Learning

Western offers many opportunities inside and outside the classroom for you to apply your academic knowledge in real-world settings. With experiential learning, you can complement your studies with relevant, rewarding experiences that help you develop transferable skills and refine your career options.

Study Abroad

Students also have the opportunity to participate in international exchange programs. There’s no better way to meet new people and expand your global and intercultural horizons. Study abroad for one year or one term while earning credits toward your Western degree.
Student Awards and Scholarships

counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/awards/index.html

To recognize and support our outstanding students the Faculty of Social Science provides awards and scholarships.

In 2018-2019, more than 260 awards, scholarships and bursaries were available, worth more than $355,000 in total.

A sample of some of the student awards and scholarships we have available in the Faculty of Social Science:

**The Barry Connell Steers Scholarship** – valued at $2,500 – is awarded to Economics, History or Political Science students based on academic achievement.

**The Clark and Mary J. Wright Scholarship** – valued at $1,000 – is awarded annually to a fourth-year Psychology student with an "A" average who upon graduation will be entering a graduate program.

**The Dancap Private Equity Awards** – totaling $44,000 in value – are awarded to students and graduates from the different DAN Management modules.

**The David H. Swankie Jr. Award in History** – valued at $4,300 – is awarded to a History student with grades in the top third of their program, at least 80 per cent in one course in United States history, and involvement in extracurricular activities.

**The Dr. W.G. Campbell and Dr. M.K. Inman Scholarships in Economics** – two valued at $2,500 each – are awarded to one third-year and one fourth-year student in Economics with high academic standing.

**Grant and Peggy Reuber Merit Scholarships** – valued at $5,700 – are awarded based on promise for distinguished achievement after graduation as reflected by leadership and other personal qualities.

**The Imran Jaffer Memorial Award in Urban Development** – valued at $1,000 – is awarded to a student who has demonstrated active community leadership or volunteer involvement.

**The Lee Guemple Award** – valued at $1,600 – is awarded to an Anthropology student based on academic achievement including grades, contribution to the Department and other recognized measures of excellence.

**The Marlene Lee Scholarship** – valued at $1,000 – is awarded to a Sociology student based on academic achievement.

**The Morrison Scholarships in American Studies** – valued at $1,500 – are awarded to students whose major includes American Studies, who earned the highest academic average in their previous year.

**The Thomas C.R. Lawson Award in Commercial Aviation Management** – valued at $6,000 – is awarded to a student in the Commercial Aviation Management (CAM) Flight Training module in DAN Management, with a minimum 70 per cent average and a demonstrated aptitude for aviation.

**The Women’s Studies Undergraduate Scholarship for Academic Excellence** – valued at $1,000 – is awarded to a full-time undergraduate student in an Honours Specialization or Major in Women’s Studies, based on academic achievement.
Explore Canada’s Most Beautiful Campus in Person!

During our FALL PREVIEW DAY and our MARCH BREAK OPEN HOUSE you will have a chance to meet with our Social Science faculty, staff and students and learn why Western offers the best student experience. Get an in-depth look at our beautiful campus and residences, your future academic program and the strong network of support services that will help to ensure your success.

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