



Fresno State continues to make a deep impact on our community and beyond. From excelling in the classroom and advancing research to positively changing the trajectory of over 25,000 students, we are giving everyone in the larger Central Valley a reason to be proud.



Defining the Valley

\$1 billion in economic activity contributed to the San Joaquin Valley each year



Possibility Meets Intention

Ranked No. 2 nationally in Washington Monthly's 2025 Best Colleges for Your Tuition (and Tax) Dollars



Teaching that Matters

Nationally recognized for research, community engagement and public impact

College of Social Sciences

As Fresno State works to define the future of our Valley and beyond, its colleges lead the way in specialized fields. Over 3,200 College of Social Sciences students are exposed to hands-on classes and practical experiences that are rooted in civic responsibility and emphasize human values, communication and analytical thinking. In addition to developing essential leadership skills, students gain an appreciation and knowledge of a myriad of societies and cultures in our constantly changing world.

By the Numbers

- \$377,000 in scholarships are available annually to social sciences students.
- Students have expanded their worldview through recent study abroad trips to Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Nepal, the Netherlands, Scotland, and South Korea.
- Criminology is the third-most popular degree on campus, with over 1,700 students enrolled in the fall of 2025.
- The recently added Asian American and Asian Studies degree is among a few of its kind in the nation.
- The Los Danzantes de Aztlán Mexican folklórico dance program has won awards at many international contests.

Competitive Career Pathways

Graduates from the College of Social Sciences go on to become industry leaders, securing jobs in a range of fields and pursuing careers with competitive salaries (state median or average earnings listed below).

- Government Affairs Manager - \$104,792
- Lawyer - \$180,816
- Law Enforcement Officer - \$115,160
- Museum Curator/Archivist - \$76,491
- State Legislator/Politician - \$132,703
- Social Science Researcher - \$111,621
- Social Services Manager - \$79,278
- Urban Planner - \$105,000

Educating Future Leaders

Fresno State's College of Social Sciences creates opportunities for one-on-one and small group mentorship to shape the Central Valley's future leaders.



Rafael Mota, one of the 2025-26 COSS Emerging Scholars, worked with Dr. Amber Crowell on the analysis and report for the Fresno County Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot. Rafael co-authored the report that was presented to the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission Board and found that guaranteed basic income reduced debt spending, fiscal stress, and food insecurity; improved child-parent engagement; and positively impacted job workloads and pursuit of training certifications.

Rafael's hands-on experience not only equipped him with job-ready skills in communication, critical thinking, and analysis; it created a future leader equipped with a vision for a more just community where everyone can thrive. This is just one of the many high-impact practices that our academic departments and programs offer within the College of Social Sciences that prepare students to lead and serve the Valley.

Find Your Calling

Africana Studies

Bachelor of Arts

Anthropology

Bachelor of Arts

- Anthropology
- Asian American and Asian Studies

Chicano and Latin American Studies

Bachelor of Arts

- Chicano Studies
- Latin American Studies

Child and Family Studies

Bachelor of Science

Geography and City and Regional Planning

Bachelor of Science

- City and Regional Planning

Bachelor of Arts

- Geography



Criminology

Master of Science

Bachelor of Science

- Criminology
 1. Corrections Option
 2. Law Enforcement Option
 3. Victimology Option
- Forensic Behavioral Sciences

History

Master of Arts

Bachelor of Arts

Political Science

Master of Public Administration

Bachelor of Arts

Sociology

Bachelor of Arts

Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Bachelor of Arts



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