

SOCIAL SCIENCES

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Welcome to Social Sciences! The value of a Social Science education is now greater than ever! Social Sciences provide the basis for all human understanding. They comprise the disciplines that define, shape and guide our societies. They seek to advance the well-being of local populations through social justice and social change. We offer degrees in the following disciplines: Law and Criminal Justice Studies; Sociology; History; Public Administration; Psychology; Law; Social Work. Through these disciplines, students are exposed to the scientific study of thought and behaviour and develop strong analytical and research skills.

Social Science graduates enter the workforce with degrees that are marketable and valuable. Recent graduates from social work and public administration have found employment in the public sector, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Social Services. History graduates have been gainfully employed at the Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation (AMMC).

The social sciences teach students to analyse human activity in the context of the wider society. Whether it be morality, ethics and belief, justice and jurisprudence, or the wider historical, social, physical or psychological context, students in social sciences are taught:

- core theoretical concepts dealing with society and humans in society;
- the application of those concepts to real-life cases;
- research methods to expand knowledge and test hypotheses;
- analysis of issues and problems from historical, philosophical, or socially relevant perspectives;
- to seek solutions to issues and problems affecting society using evidence-based research and analysis; and
- to understand Bahamian issues and problems within global, historical and social realities.



BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HISTORY (124 credit hours)

The study of History is pivotal to the development of national identity and consciousness. It allows citizens to identify with each other through a study of past struggles and shared experiences and to understand how the individual fits within the larger collective memory of a nation. It exposes students to diverse populations and the variety of human experiences. In the BA in History, students

- Develop an awareness of global issues and current regional problems through a retrospective analysis of the region's past.
- Are provided with a comparative context for studying The Bahamas in relation to the Caribbean region and the wider hemispheric and international arena.
- Acquire historical research techniques, archival analysis, written and oral communication, critical and analytical thinking skills.
- Learn to describe, reconstruct and interpret the human past in order to inform their understanding of the present.
- Acquire an understanding of various civilisations and cultures, political institutions, social hierarchies, gender relationships and cultural productions.
- Explore historical issues of national importance through various symposia and conferences.

In their senior year, students intern in a public sector or private corporation such as Clifton Heritage, the Antiquities, Monuments, Museums Corporation, or The Bahamas Historical Society. This experience helps them appreciate public history as a profession and enables them to apply the practical skills of librarianship, archival preservation, restoration work or museum studies.

Students acquire a solid educational foundation for graduate studies in history, law, journalism, library science or related disciplines. This programme is ideally suited for persons wishing to develop analytical and research skills necessary for the legal profession, media journalism, heritage tourism, museum studies, public administration and the civil service. It is also ideally suited for persons interested in careers in teaching, archival work, the foreign-service, diplomacy, international or regional law and politics.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY (121 credit hours)

Students are exposed to the scientific study of thought and behaviour which addresses all aspects of human functioning, including how people learn, the nature of personality, patterns of social interaction and the role of culture in human development.

Students

- Gain an understanding of the complexity of cultural diversity and learn to communicate and work with people from diverse backgrounds and varying demographic characteristics including age, race, disability, sexual orientation, class, ethnicity, religion, cognitive abilities, etc.
- Are exposed to major theoretical approaches, findings and historical trends in psychology and to research methods and skills including design, data analysis and interpretation.
- Acquire an appreciation for the value of psychological science in society and recognize the value of psychology in understanding and providing solutions for real-world problems.
- Identify models that help develop creative solutions to improve the societies in which they live.
- Address issues relevant to The Bahamas, the Caribbean region and the global community.

The capstone practicum, taken in the final semester, facilitates a successful transition to the work force and/or graduate school. Students gain experience working in a mental health or human service setting and embed this in a learning context. They integrate knowledge, skills and competencies gained in their courses and service-learning experiences and effectively showcase their evolving professionalism.

This BA is a popular and versatile degree. Students develop skills and knowledge applicable in areas such as the public service, private sector and non-governmental organisations and which can be applied to virtually all areas of work. They find work in government, industry, national security, sports and recreation, medicine and pharmacology, social planning and private practice. This programme also lays a strong foundation for graduate studies in psychology, counseling, human resources and other disciplines.



BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (124 credit hours)

The BA in Public Administration prepares students for leadership roles in government with a focus on development policy and management.

Students

- Acquire technical, managerial and political skills necessary to create and implement a range of public programmes.
- Explore public sector issues and develop skills which allow them to address economic, social, educational, environmental, health and other public priorities.
- Gain an understanding of social, economic and development issues within a public administration setting.
- Identify ways in which public administrators shape and implement programmes and policies that build and strengthen government departments, the public service, non-profit organizations, communities and society.
- Develop critical thinking, analytical and research skills and competencies.

This programme is ideally suited for persons interested in government policy and administration and in careers in all aspects of the public/civil service and non-profit sector. It also serves as an excellent foundation for graduate school.





BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIAL WORK (125 credit hours)

This programme prepares generalist social workers whose practice is characterised by quality, competence, respect, dedication to professional principles and the pursuit of social and economic justice. Students

- Develop social work skills that enable them to help people understand and manage the conditions of their daily living, accomplish life tasks and realise individual and collective aspirations.
- Focus on critical thinking, practice without discrimination, respect for human diversity, advocacy, ethics, analysis of social policies, social change, the use of supervision in practice and evaluate research studies.
- Use evidence-based theoretical frameworks to understand human development across the life span.

Through course work and field work practicum, students engage in the helping change process while interfacing with the Bahamian community. Under the supervision of a social work practitioner, the field experience provides a period of orientation, observation and supervised practice in the delivery of social services. Students are exposed to a range of social work roles and tasks and develop competencies necessary for generalist social work practice.

BA in Social Work graduates are practitioners who are able to function proficiently in generalist social work practice with diverse multicultural clients and at-risk populations in a variety of government and private social service agencies.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY (121 credit hours)

Sociology seeks to study and understand social dynamics and to anticipate and predict patterns of social interaction and their consequences. This BA provides students with local, regional and international perspectives on social and cultural problems affecting contemporary societies. Students examine the social dimensions of human life, the interactions and institutions which emanate from them and how they impact society as a whole.

They

- Analyse small groups to large organisations and communities, inclusive of the family, culture, crime, sexuality, youth, tourism, race relations, aging, population and environment, urban and social stratification, work and socialisation.
- Acquire an appreciation for the centrality of social values and examine empirical and theoretical frameworks for the betterment of society.
- Develop their analytic abilities and an understanding of social phenomena from local, regional, global, theoretical and empirical perspectives.
- Develop intellectual curiosity, independent thought, critical insight and mature judgement.
- Recognise the importance of values and the moral responsibility of caring for and cooperating with others for the greater good.

This programme is designed for individuals interested in shaping their social environments or working with people. It provides the basis for graduate study as well as professional careers in areas such as education, youth development, gender affairs, social work, criminal justice, law, public administration and policy analysis, foreign affairs, human resources, social research, marketing research, tourism, health services, population and demographic analysis, environmental planning and administration in business and community organisations.



BACHELOR OF LAWS (LLB) (120 credit hours)

The LLB programme is a specialised degree based on the structure of bachelor programmes in the United Kingdom and other English-law-based programmes.

Students focus on the

- traditional basic legal skills of concise and pertinent oral argument,
- clarity and precision of written opinion,
- systematic and relevant presentation of essential issues,
- development of a detached and balanced judgement.

Courses provide opportunities for research-based continuous assessment and utilise assessment methodologies intended to produce graduates with strong writing, oral presentation and critical analysis skills. The programme

- is designed to inculcate in students a sense of citizenship and a zeal for the protection and promotion of individual and social rights,
- provides a unique opportunity for students to focus on Bahamian legal content and aspects of legal training peculiar to the Bahamian context.

Students develop analytical legal and socio-legal skills which help them acquire a sound grasp of the function of law in Bahamian society, particularly in the way law relates to specific societal problems in The Bahamas. As a result, they are better prepared for the Bahamian, regional and international legal markets. The LLB programme is ideally suited for persons seeking employment in the public or private sectors or persons wishing to enter the police and defence forces, banking, commerce and the related financial services sector.

Students who pursue the programme on a full-time basis take five courses per semester and complete the programme in 3 years; students who pursue the programme on a part-time basis take three courses per semester and complete the programme in 5 years.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Individuals who wish to enter the LLB programme must have an associate or bachelor degree or its equivalent with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher from an accredited institution. Mature applicants over 30 years of age who provide evidence of academic and professional achievement may be considered.

Where applicable, interested persons should possess English Proficiency at grade 'B' or higher.

MINOR IN DIVERSITY STUDIES (24 credit hours)

This minor fosters an appreciation for the complexity of human diversity, promotes self-awareness and provides a global perspective on humanity. Students develop skills to work and communicate effectively with people from diverse backgrounds and varying demographic characteristics. They appreciate how an understanding of diversity can contribute to local, regional and international solutions to real-world problems. Courses complement knowledge and skills from other disciplines to foster the creative problem solving required for human functioning in the culturally diverse 21st century. Students gain competence in an area that facilitates career advancement in the public and private sectors. This minor is ideally suited for students planning careers in business, health, media and the civil service, especially immigration, foreign affairs or international relations. Students take eight courses.

MINOR IN HISTORY (18 credit hours)

Students gain an understanding of various civilisations and cultures, political institutions, social hierarchies, gender relationships and cultural productions. They acquire the skills necessary to integrate a significant body of knowledge over time and across disciplines. They learn historical research techniques, analysis, synthesis, critical thinking, documentation and writing and communication skills. This minor is ideally suited for non-History majors interested in careers in law, politics, journalism, international relations or foreign affairs. Students take six courses.



ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDIES (67 credit hours)

The AA in Law and Criminal Justice Studies provides a foundation in both law and criminal justice. This programme is particularly useful for persons interested in careers with the Royal Bahamas Police/Defence Force, Department of Corrections, Immigration or careers in criminology, sociology, journalism. It is also useful for students wishing to be admitted into the Bachelor of Laws degree programme or Bachelor of Arts in Psychology or Sociology.



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