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Cannabis Studies, B.A.

With a focus on social and environmental responsibility, the bachelor's degree program explores the historical, geographical, cultural, economic, and political contexts of cannabis legalization. Drawing curriculum across multiple disciplines, the program prepares students to be stewards of social change in complex policy landscapes, developing skills in critical and analytic thinking, writing, communicating with diverse communities, as well as engaging with science and research. Shedding light on the implications of contemporary social problems on the limits, possibilities and promises of cannabis policy reform to address them is the key to building a sustainable and equitable future.

***Per California State University policy, at this time the Cannabis Studies major does not include touching cannabis or training or curriculum in cultivating, processing, or selling cannabis.*

Experience Your Learning

Students will be able to apply what they learn in the classroom to internships, service learning, and/or independent study linking cannabis subjects to broader expertise and critical thinking.

Select from an array of methods courses designed to give students tools to build community-informed cannabis policy, such as investigative journalism, non-profit grant writing, and geographic information systems.

Choose from courses that explore best practices for ecological sustainability across the supply chain and decentralized regulatory networks.

Support research by faculty involved in Cannabis Studies and the Humboldt Institute for Interdisciplinary Marijuana Research (HIIMR). Develop and produce social media content for the Cannabis Studies podcast and website, including oral history interviews, data dashboards, news briefs, and policy analysis.

Connect internship-based learning experiences with coursework in the program's Senior Capstone project.

Did you know?

- **Grounded in the liberal arts and dedicated to a stigma-free approach, the program is the only one of its kind in the United States.**
- **Given the historical significance of cannabis community, politics, and markets in the region, the program explores relevant local issues that highlight important trends.**
- **Among the nation's top cannabis scholars and researchers, our faculty have examined the impacts and mitigation of cannabis criminalization cultivation; principles of sustainable and regenerative development; the cultural and environmental impacts of cannabis cultivation on public lands in tribal areas; and uneven geographies of regulation, business taxation, regulatory compliance matters, and more.**



Academics & Options

Cannabis Studies, B.A. (2023)

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Students will develop skills in critical and analytic thinking, writing, communication with diverse communities, as well as critical engagement with science and research.

Concentrations

These concentrations lead to a range of career pathways in professions tasked with integrating cannabis into society, from community advocacy to policy implementation.

Environmental Stewardship: Grounds students in bioregional values and practices developed by the countercultural people who came to Humboldt County watersheds in the 1960s and founded two institutions of global significance: a radical environmental movement and the American sinsemilla cannabis industry. Graduates will learn principles of regenerative agriculture and environmental policy reform to prepare them for service in the public and private sector.

Policy Stewardship: Grounds students in drug policy reform values and practices. This policy stewardship concentration centers intersectional social movement values and practices to prepare graduates to work inside and outside regulatory institutions, and to be change agents in landscapes of significant social reform, especially cannabis legalization from the local to the global level.

Get Involved

The program hosts the speaker series, which focuses on immediate issues related to cannabis policy reforms and implementation from the local to the global scale. The event provides students direct access to experts who are examining the broader social impacts of cannabis prohibition and legalization.

The Sociological & Criminological Student Association is an organization of Sociology and Criminology & Justice Studies undergraduate students, and Sociology graduate students, who work together to plan events and projects that relate to social inequality and justice.

There are opportunities to support research by faculty involved in Cannabis Studies and the Humboldt Institute for Interdisciplinary Marijuana Research (HIIMR). Formed in 2012, HIIMR was the first academic research institute in California devoted to cannabis research. It is a research and analysis organization created to study and inform cannabis reform policies and markets.

Careers

The knowledge and skills students gain through the program can be applied to many different careers that specialize in cannabis and other industries. These include compliance officers, research and environmental scientists, attorneys, and accounting specialists.

- Policy
- Environmental Management
- Community Development
- Nonprofit Advocacy
- Consulting
- Law
- Sustainability
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Compliance
- Regulation
- Journalism and Media

