

National Science Foundation: Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences

The SBE directorate (www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=SBE) has two principal components, Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS) and Social and Economic Sciences (SES). BCS has programs in Anthropological Sciences, Geography and Environmental Sciences, and Psychological and Language Sciences. SES has a number of programs, the most relevant of which are Decision, Risk and Management Sciences, Economics, Innovation and Organizational Sciences, Political Science, Science of Science and Innovation Policy, Science, Technology, and Society, and Sociology

Many of these programs focus specifically on disciplinary research but others explicitly encourage interdisciplinary research. Although these programs encompass a wide range of disciplinary perspectives, all strongly emphasize the need to address problems that are theoretically grounded and generalizable beyond the specific context (e.g., physical environment, individuals, and organizations) of a given study.

In addition, SBE recently administered the Human and Social Dynamics (HSD) priority area. HSD was intended to increase scientific understanding of change at the individual (human action and development) and social (organizational, cultural, and societal) levels. HSD explicitly required multidisciplinary research teams using interdisciplinary approaches involving the physical, biological, and social sciences, as well as engineering, education, and humanities.