

STAR Project Statement Guidelines: Social Sciences

Relevant fields: Anthropology, Communication, Economics, Ethnic Studies, Marketing, Political Science/International Relations, Psychology, Sociology

General description: All of the social science fields fundamentally examine the human condition from a variety of perspectives. For example, a psychologist might design an empirical research study investigating group differences under controlled conditions, a sociologist might host focus groups to analyze themes related to participants' intersecting identities as part of larger groups or institutions, or an anthropologist might study the ancient and recent human past through the analysis of artifacts or human remains. The disciplinary lines between fields are not always clear cut and the methods of analysis overlap; therefore, any of the following types of research are valued as part of a STAR project statement, as long as it is well-justified in terms of the scope and relevance of the project:

- *Quantitative (e.g., surveys, lab experiments, field experiments, content analysis)*
- *Qualitative (e.g., interviews, focus groups, case studies, archival work)*
- *Analytical (e.g., literature review, critical analysis, cultural studies, textual analysis, rhetorical analysis)*
- *Participatory action research, ethnography, community narratives*

Required elements: Regardless of methodology, the following elements are required in all Social Sciences STAR project statements:

- ***Brief review of relevant literature:*** Offer a clear summary of the issue/problem at hand in the context of existing literature
- ***Approach/goals/method:*** Articulate specific research objectives that pose valuable and original lines of inquiry; thoroughly describe your methodology/timeline and why it was chosen to fulfill the objectives
- ***Anticipated outcomes/discussion:*** Describe the anticipated final product of the summer research experience both in terms of research findings and how they will be disseminated; discuss how the project contributes to the “big picture” in your topic of inquiry