The Department of Ethnic Studies is an interdisciplinary program that is academically committed to promoting multicultural and ethnic knowledge, values, and skills, both within and outside the United States, and to preparing our students for effective functioning across the culturally diverse global community. Starting Fall Semester, 2002, the Ethnic and Multi-Cultural Studies Program (EMCS) Master of Sciences degree has been offered to meet the professional needs of diverse students concerning scholarly academic work, the practical application of ethnic studies knowledge in their professions, and for personal growth. To date, it is a small department but growing majors and the only graduate program in ethnic and multicultural studies in the upper-Midwest. The graduate program provides students with multi-ethnic and cross-cultural knowledge, values and skills from American and global perspectives.

First, students gain factual knowledge by taking courses that focus on different ethnic, racial and cultural groups, as well as on discrimination, immigration, stereotypes, and other important issues related to diversity studies. Second, they learn how to understand and appreciate the different values, practices, and beliefs members of each cultural or ethnic population subscribe to, as well as understanding the diversity within those populations. Third, and most importantly, students in this program are expected to gain the following skills: 1) research skills, writing skills, and/or computer/statistical analysis skills; 2) human resource management and leadership skills; 3) counseling skills; and 4) cultural competency skills or cross-cultural training and diversity management skills. There is a strong emphasis on gaining competency in applied skills because advocacy must have practical application as its foundations to be credible.

Contact:

Graduate Coordinator: Professor Hanh Huy Phan (hanh.phan@mnsu.edu)