

ANTHROPOLOGY:

WHAT IS IT AND WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH IT?

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Anthropology is the study of the human condition in both its cultural and biological aspects. Anthropology is divided into four subfields: cultural anthropology, biological (or physical) anthropology, archaeology, and anthropological linguistics. Each of the subfields has a common interest in understanding the human condition from a comparative or cross-cultural perspective. The anthropology program at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Specialization in one of the four subfields of anthropology is not usually obtained at an undergraduate level, although students can certainly focus on upper-level courses in a specific subfield. Emphasis is instead placed on obtaining a broad, anthropological education, referred to as the “four-field approach.” This prepares students for employment in a variety of disciplines and provides a solid foundation for graduate studies in one of the subfields. It also reflects the importance of a holistic approach to understanding the human condition as both biological and cultural.

Requirements for the Anthropology Major

Anthropology majors at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette must obtain a minimum of 30 credit hours in anthropology, including the following required courses: Cultural Anthropology (Anth 201), Physical Anthropology (Anth 202), and Archaeology (Anth 303). Linguistics (English 351) is also a required course. The remaining 7 courses (21 credit hours) should be selected in consultation with an advisor and tailored to the student’s needs and interests. The following courses are currently offered:

201	Cultural Anthropology	430	Forensic Anthropology
202	Physical Anthropology	450	Indians of Louisiana
203	World Archaeology	454(G)	Gender Across Cultures
303	Archaeology	460	Medical Anthropology
304	Primatology	490(G)	Archaeology Field School
305	Anthropology of Religion	491(G)	Research in Cultural Anthropology
310	Human Variation and Adaptation	493(G)	Seminar in Anthropology (Topics Vary)
375	Old World Prehistory	497(G)	Special Projects in Anthropology I
385	North American Prehistory	498(G)	Special Projects in Anthropology II
386	North American Indians	499(G)	Archaeological Records
425	Peoples of Africa		

Career Opportunities

A bachelor's degree in anthropology will prepare you for employment in a wide range of careers. Any career requiring knowledge of multiculturalism, cross-cultural interaction, racial and social issues, ethnicity, human resources, or globalization will benefit greatly from a degree in anthropology. Some students with undergraduate degrees in anthropology choose to go into other fields, such as law, journalism, international relations, business or medicine. There are numerous job openings for anthropologists with training in ethnography, human biology, archaeology, or linguistics. Cultural resource management is one multi-disciplinary field which has grown rapidly during the past few decades.

Many anthropologists are employed by Federal agencies such as the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Others work with state offices of cultural resources and historic preservation. Anthropologists also find successful careers as private consultants or work with cultural resource management companies.

A bachelor's degree in anthropology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette will also prepare you for graduate studies. A graduate degree is often necessary to advance as a professional anthropologist. Some Master's degree programs include specialized or "applied" areas of study geared toward specific careers. These include applied anthropology, medical anthropology, forensics, museum management, historic preservation, and cultural resource management. The job prospects are excellent for individuals with a masters' degree in anthropology.

Other graduate degree programs are geared toward doctoral studies. The Ph.D. is generally a requirement for a tenure-track teaching position at a college or university. It is at this level that anthropologists specialize even further and conduct detailed research regarding a specific topic in one of the four subfields.

Requirements and Opportunities for the Anthropology Minor

A minor in anthropology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette consists of 18 credit hours, 9 of which should include the three anthropology core courses (Anth 201, Anth 202, and Anth 303). A minor in anthropology will provide a general understanding of worldwide human cultural and biological variations, as well as cross-cultural universals. It will broaden a liberal arts and scientific education to include a holistic understanding of the cultural and biological foundations of humanity.

Employment in the subfields of anthropology is normally pursued by those who have obtained an undergraduate or graduate degree. However, students often find that an anthropological perspective is useful in other careers. Those in art, business, education, engineering, industry, medicine, and human services can certainly benefit from an increased knowledge and appreciation of what it means to be human. In a world where issues such as ethnicity, race, cultural traditions, multiculturalism, fundamentalism, and globalization are increasingly significant, an anthropological education can make a decisive contribution.

Additional Sources of Information on the Internet

An enormous amount of information on anthropology and careers in anthropology is available on the internet. The following is a selected list of internet resources.

Anthropology: Cultural, Linguistic, and General

American Anthropological Association - <http://www.aaanet.org/index.htm>
Careers, opportunities, and jobs in anthropology; AAA On-line Career Center.

Anthropology: Education for the 21st Century (American Anthropological Association)
<http://www.aaanet.org/careers.htm>

Careers in Anthropology (Northern Kentucky University)
<http://www.nku.edu/~anthro/careers.html>

Anthropology Career Guide (Harcourt Publishing Company)
<http://www.harcourtcollege.com/anthro/exchange/career.html>

What You Can Do With An Anthropology Major (Georgia Southern University)
<http://gsaix2.cc.gasou.edu/sta/career/anthrop.htm>

Working with Your Anthropology Degree (CNN)
http://money.cnn.com/2000/11/17/career/q_degreeanthropology/

Responses to Student Questions About a Career as a Practicing Anthropologist
<http://anthap.oakland.edu/napafaq.htm>

Anthropology of Business (Harcourt Publishing Company)
<http://www.harcourtcollege.com/anthro/exchange/business.html>

Smithsonian Institution, Department of Anthropology -
<http://nmnhwww.si.edu/anthro/outreach/outrch1.html>

USA Jobs, Federal employment - <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>

Anthropology in the News - <http://www.tamu.edu/anthropology/news.html>

Archaeology and Cultural Resource Management

Frequently Asked Questions About a Career in Archaeology in the U.S.
<http://www.museum.state.il.us/ismdepts/anthro/dlcfaq.html>

Cultural Resources Management (Harcourt Publishing Company)
<http://www.harcourtcollege.com/anthro/exchange/cultural.html>

Society for American Archaeology- <http://www.saa.org/>
Careers, opportunities, and jobs in archaeology, guide to academic programs and universities.

Society for Historical Archaeology - <http://www.sha.org/>
Employment Opportunities; Careers in Historical Archaeology; Guide to Higher Education in Historical and Underwater Archaeology

Archaeological Fieldwork Opportunities - <http://www.cincpac.com/afos/testpit.html>
Listing of current field schools and jobs in cultural resource management.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): A Career in Archaeology in the U.S. - <http://www.museum.state.il.us/ismdepts/anthro/dlcfaq.html>

NPS Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities - <http://www.cr.nps.gov/getinvol.htm>

Cultural Resource Laws, Regulations & Standards - <http://www.cr.nps.gov/linklaws.htm>

National Center for Preservation Technology and Training - <http://www.ncptt.nps.gov/>

ArchNet - <http://archnet.asu.edu/>

American Cultural Resources Association - <http://www.acra-crm.org/>

Shovelbums - <http://www.shovelbums.org/>

Email list serve for cultural resource management

USA Jobs, Federal employment (note: search for archeologist, NOT archaeologist)
<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>

Biological (Physical) Anthropology

Careers in Physical/Biological Anthropology <http://www.physanth.org/careers/>

A Career in Biological Anthropology (AAPA Pamphlet) -
<http://www.physanth.org/careers/brochure.html>

A Career in Biological Anthropology <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~jmoore/bioanthro/brochure1.html>

Non-Academic Careers in Physical Anthropology
<http://weber.ucsd.edu/~jmoore/bioanthro/brochure2.html>

Forensic Anthropology (Harcourt Publishing Company)
<http://www.harcourtcollege.com/anthro/exchange/forensic.html>

Careers in Applied/Practicing Anthropology <http://www.oakland.edu/~dow/anthap.htm>

Medical Anthropology (Harcourt Publishing Company)
<http://www.harcourtcollege.com/anthro/exchange/medical.html>

This brochure is available online and can be downloaded as a pdf at:

<http://www.louisiana.edu/Academic/LiberalArts/SoAn/anthropology.html>