



STUDENT LIFE

THE CAREER CENTER

Anthropology

FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. Anthropology addresses both biological and cultural aspects of humans, from the origins of genetic diversity, to the organization of social groups and the human significance of language. This breadth makes Anthropology an ideal liberal arts major. As an Anthropology

major, you will study in the various subfields of anthropology — archaeological, biological, linguistic, and sociocultural — and will develop a broad range of skills.

Related fields include Linguistics, Biology, Psychology, Archaeology, Museum Studies, Organizational Studies, Public Health, and Sociology.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Project Development Skills

- Planning long-term projects
- Recruiting /coordinating research subjects
- Writing grant proposals
- Assessing results
- Maintaining careful records

Research /Analytical Skills

- Reading critically
- Gathering and organizing data
- Surveying and sampling
- Deriving knowledge from artifacts
- Applying nonintrusive methods
- Computer modeling
- Reaching new conclusions through comparative study
- Utilizing statistical applications
- Examining data or artifacts
- Conducting field studies

Interpersonal / Cross-Cultural Skills

- Observing human interactions
- Understanding group dynamics
- Identifying value systems
- Recognizing cultural differences and similarities
- Adapting to other cultures
- Interviewing different populations

Communication Skills

- Summarizing results
- Writing clearly
- Presenting and defending a position
- Explaining complex ideas
- Communicating across cultures /languages
- Understanding language development

BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Student organizations and campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. Most

majors sponsor specific student groups like an undergraduate organization or an honor society. Other options include study abroad, off-campus employment or volunteering in the community. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.

FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

Anthropology majors develop both general and technical skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, cross-cultural observational skills may be equally useful whether working as a foundation project manager, a corporate recruiter, or a freelance journalist.

Project Development Skills

Transplant registry database manager 

Collections manager 

Curator 

Computer simulation model designer 

Foundation program manager

Cultural artifact specialist

Project director

Research /Analytical Skills

Physician 

Coroner /medical examiner 

Behavioral scientist/
anthropologist 

Medical anthropologist 

Field archaeologist

Contract archaeologist 

Research fellow

Policy researcher 

Federal /state government
analyst

Actuary 

Lawyer /union legal counsel 

Environmental impact
assessment researcher 

Market research analyst

 = Further Study Required

 = Green Jobs

Many majors go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by Anthropology graduates.

Interpersonal / Cross-Cultural Skills

Social worker 

Genetic counselor 

Academic advisor /
counselor 

Bilingual /bicultural program
specialist

English as a Second Language
teacher

Caseworker

National and state park
interpreter 

International agency
representative

Congressional committee staff
director

Head Start program director

United Nations representative

Employment recruiter

Industrial psychologist 

Travel agent /tour guide

Communication Skills

Public health educator

Advocate (e.g. children, ethnic
groups, the elderly)

Museum education director

K-12 teacher, college
professor 

Freelance journalist

Web designer

Editor /writer

For more career information, see O*Net at

online.onetcenter.org

major REQUIREMENTS

The Anthropology major requires courses in each of the subdivisions of the field, totaling a minimum of 34 credits in anthropology at the 200 level and above.

Evolutionary Anthropology majors often pursue further education and careers in the health sciences. This major, with prerequisites in biology and anthropology, includes five courses in anthropology and three in biology from a predetermined list.

For complete information on course offerings and requirements, please contact:

Department of Anthropology

101 West Hall 734-764-7274

lsa.umich.edu/anthro

lsa.umich.edu/anthro

Newnan Advising Center

1255 Angell Hall

734-764-0332

lsa.umich.edu/advising

NEXT STEPS / RESOURCES

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account:

careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3

The Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: maizepages.umich.edu

On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at: studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx

Connect to Community lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: connect2community.umich.edu

The Career Center

3200 Student Activities Building

734-764-7460

careercenter.umich.edu

facebook.com/careercenter.umich

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