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.

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

**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

**Interpersonal /Cross-Cultural 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

**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](http://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.

**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

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

**Department of Anthropology**
101 West Hall 734-764-7274
isa.umich.edu/anthro
isa.umich.edu/under

**Newnan Advising Center**
1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
isa.umich.edu/advising

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
careercenter.umich.edu
facebook.com/careercenter.umich
twitter.com/careercenter
linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan

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

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