



Anthropology

Anthropology addresses both biological and cultural aspects of humans, from the origins of genetic diversity, to the organization of social groups, to the human significance of language. A broad range of skills is acquired by study in the specialized fields of anthropology — biological, sociocultural, archaeological, and linguistic. The breadth of anthropology makes it an ideal liberal

arts major. Anthropology prepares the concentrator for work in career areas ranging from health care to academic research, from social services to management. This guide discusses some of the skills and abilities enhanced through study for a Bachelor’s degree in Anthropology and highlights selected career paths and occupational opportunities available to concentrators.

SKILLS & ABILITIES

Anthropology majors develop general and technical skills and abilities, some related directly to the subfields of anthropology. These skills are applicable to occupations representing diverse career paths. The anthropology concentrator might find, for example, that cross-cultural observational skills may be equally useful whether working

as a foundation project manager, a corporate recruiter, or a freelance journalist. Many concentrators go on to medical, law, or graduate schools. Listed below are selected examples of the skills and abilities developed through study in anthropology.

Project Development

- Planing long-term projects
- Recruiting/ coordinating research subjects
- Writing grant proposals
- Evaluating
- Maintaining records
- Developing project designs

Interpersonal

- Interviewing
- Understanding group dynamics
- Observing human interactions
- Working in another culture
- Surveying and sampling
- Identifying value systems
- Recognizing cultural differences/similarities

Research/Analysis

- Gathering and organizing data
- Deriving knowledge from artifacts
- Applying non-intrusive methods
- Computer modeling
- Reaching new conclusions through comparative study
- Utilizing statistical applications
- Examining data or artifacts
- Conducting field studies

Communication

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

OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The list of occupational opportunities below is merely a representative sample of the range of job types and job settings open to anthropology majors, gathered from information about University of Michigan and other college

graduates. Some occupations, such as social worker, may necessitate additional specialized training. Advanced study is generally expected for those examples marked with a • on the list below.

Health and Human Services

- Social worker
- Public health educator
Advocate (e.g., children, ethnic group members, aging)
- Genetic counselor
- Physician
- Transplant registry database manager

Research/Education

- Field archaeologist
- Bilingual/bicultural program specialist
- Museum education director
- Academic advisor/counselor
- Teacher of English as a Second Language
- Computer simulation model designer
- Anthropology professor
- Contract archaeologist
- Collections manager
- Foundation program manager

Government/ Public Service

- Friend of the Court caseworker
- Bureau of Indian Affairs researcher
- National/state park interpreter
- International agency representative
- Cultural artifact specialist
- Congressional committee staff director
- Coroner/ medical examiner
- Head Start program director
- State/federal government policy analyst
- United Nations representative

Business

- Actuary
- Industrial psychologist
- Employment recruiter
- Loan officer/bank employee
- Union legal counsel
- Environmental impact assessment researcher
- Travel agent/guide
- Freelance journalist
- Web designer
- Editor/writer

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

The Anthropology concentration requires courses in each of the subdivisions of the field, totaling a minimum of 30 credits in anthropology at the 200 level and above. An emphasis in Sociocultural Anthropology requires one course from each of the following groups: regional courses, area courses, and theory/method courses.

The Social Anthropology concentration program allows students to combine study in sociology and anthropology with a focus on social organizations and culture. More

information about the Social Anthropology concentration may be obtained from the Sociology Department. Anthropology-Zoology concentrators often pursue further education and careers in the health sciences. This concentration, with prerequisites in biology and anthropology, includes four courses in anthropology and three in biology from a predetermined list.

Complete information on course offerings and requirements may be found in the *LS&A Bulletin*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information about choosing a career, about graduate/professional school, internships, or job descriptions; and for library resources:

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
(734) 764-7460
www.careercenter.umich.edu

For information about choosing a major and about concentration and degree requirements:

LS&A Academic Advising Center
1255 Angell Hall
(734) 764-0332

Anthropology Department
101 West Hall
(734) 764-7274
www.lsa.umich.edu/anthro