Introduction

Anthropology is the study of all aspects of human existence, from how we evolved into *Homo sapiens* to how we live together as a single species today. The four fields of anthropology are cultural anthropology, biological (or physical) anthropology, archaeology, and linguistic anthropology. Most careers in which the label “anthropologist” is used require an advanced degree. However, anthropological training at any degree level is recognized as a major asset in a wide and growing range of careers in education, research, health, environment, government, business and many more.

Functional Skill Set for Anthropology Majors

- Communication across cultures and languages
- Recognizing cultural differences and similarities
- Critical thinking
- Strong skills in oral and written expression
- Social ease in strange or difficult situations
- Cross cultural awareness and sensitivity
- Holistic perspective
- Observation acuity
- Foreign language and computer fluency
- Planning projects
- Writing grant proposals
- Interviewing
- Surveying and sampling
- Gathering and organizing data
- Examining data and artifacts
- Conducting field studies
- Summarizing results
- Attention to detail
- Analytical reading skills
- Careful record-keeping
- Ability to supplement statistical findings with descriptive data
- Interviewing experience
- Alertness, curiosity, resourcefulness
- Observing & interpreting social behavior & interaction.
- Data analysis
Related Career Titles for Anthropology Majors

- Health and Human Services Advocate
- Health Science Administrator
- Physician
- Social Worker
- Family Service Counselor
- Job Counselor
- Public Health Educator
- Transplant Registry Database Manager
- Genetic Counselor
- Medical Anthropologist
- Social Service Agency Planner
- Academic Advisor/Counselor
- Collections Manager
- Foundation Curator/Technician
- Anthropologist
- College Professor
- Genealogist
- Museum Education Director
- Archaeologist
- Computer Simulation Model Designer
- Librarian
- Paleontologist
- Archivist
- Contract Archaeologist
- Linguist
- Scientific Linguist
- Art Conservator
- Ethnologist
- Marketing Researcher
- Social Science Analyst
- Behavioral Science Advisor
- Field Archaeologist
- Media Planner
- Teacher, Elementary/Secondary
- Bilingual/Bicultural Program Specialist
- Forensic Anthropologist
- Multicultural Education Specialist/Director
- Teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Vocational Teacher
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Researcher
- Cultural Artifact Specialist
- Immigration Inspector
- Peace Corps Volunteer
- Community Resource Manager
- International Agency Representative
- Probation Officer
- Community Planner
- Foreign Affairs Officer
- National/State Park Interpreter
- Rural Development Officer
- Congressional Committee Staff Director
- Friend of the Court Caseworker
- Park Service Supervisor/Director
- Social Insurance Representative
- Coroner/Medical Examiner
- Head Start Program Director
- Peace Corps Area Director
- Local State/Federal Government Policy Analyst
- Urban Planner
- Actuary
- Environmental Impact Assessment Researcher
- Loan Officer/Bank Officer
- Staff Training Specialist
- Advertiser
- Human Resource Manager
- Management Consultant
- Technical Writer
- Biographer
- Industrial Psychologist
- Management Consultant
- Tour Guide
- Corporate Communications Consultant
- Insurance Claims Adjuster
- Marketing Manager
- Travel Agent/Guide
- Employee Relations Specialist
- International Visitor Escort/Consultant
- Media Specialist
- Travel Consultant
- Employment Recruiter
- Journalist
- Personnel Management Specialist
Some Organizations that Typically Employ Anthropology Majors:

- Hospitals & Health Agencies
- College/Universities
- International Agencies
- Zoological Gardens
- Research Laboratories
- State and Federal Park Services
- Business and Industry
- Museums
- Laboratories
- International Health Organizations
- State, Local, and Federal Agencies
- Banks and Financial Institutions
- Corporations and trade associations
- Police departments
- Forensics
- Environmental Consulting Firms
- Market Research and Advertising Firms
- Non-governmental organizations
- Private foundations
- Advocacy groups
- Cultural Resource Management Firms

Professional Organizations and Associations Websites


Society for American Archaeology www.saa.org/

American Academy of Forensic Sciences – www.aafs.org

American Association of Museums – www.aam-us.org

National Association for the Practice of Anthropology – www.practicinganthropology.org

American Association of Physical Anthropologists – www.physanth.org

Archaeological Institute of America – www.archaeological.org

American Cultural Resources Association – www.acra-crm.org

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# ANTHROPOLOGY/ARCHAEOLOGY

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

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<tr>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
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<td>Teaching</td>
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<td>Research</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Student Affairs</td>
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<td>Library/Information Science</td>
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<td>Non-classroom Education</td>
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### EMPLOYERS

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<td>University research institutes or laboratories</td>
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<td>Campus museums</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature centers</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### STRATEGIES

- **Earn a Ph.D. in Anthropology for university and college faculty positions or an M.A./M.S. for community college positions.**
- **Earn a graduate degree in College Student Affairs, Library/Information Science or related field for work in student affairs, administration, or libraries.**
- **Gain research experience by assisting professors or participating in independent studies.**
- **Maintain a high g.p.a and develop strong personal recommendations.**
- **Develop excellent communication and presentation skills.**
- **Get involved in campus leadership positions such as Resident Assistant, Peer Advisor, or Admissions Tour Guide.**

### MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES

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<td>Natural history or history museums:</td>
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<td>Universities</td>
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<tr>
<td>State, federal or local</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historical Societies</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### STRATEGIES

- **Plan to earn a graduate degree in anthropology, museum studies, library science (with an emphasis on archives) or other related discipline depending upon specific interests.**
- **Gain relevant experience through internships or volunteering positions in museums.**
- **Develop a strong attention to detail.**
- **Be prepared to relocate to access the most employment opportunities.**

### ARCHAEOLOGY

<table>
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<th>Cultural Resource Management</th>
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<tr>
<td>Consulting firms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental/engineering companies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Firms specializing in archaeological investigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal, state and local government</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban and city planning offices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic preservation societies</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### STRATEGIES

- **Field positions require a B.S./B.A. and previous field experience. Get involved with faculty research or other research programs.**
- **Obtain a graduate degree to direct field crews.**
- **May need a willingness to travel and endure adverse living/working conditions during field studies or excavations. Working conditions and hours vary with the type of work/research performed.**
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<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
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| **GOVERNMENT** | Federal agencies including:  
Administration, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Central Intelligence Agency  
Departments of Conservation, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Natural Resources,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Institutes of Health, National Park Service,  
Public Health Service, Smithsonian Institute,  
State agencies including:  
Historic Preservation Offices  
Parks Departments  
Highway Departments | Learn federal or state application procedures.  
Graduate degree generally required for higher level positions.  
Gain related experience through internships in areas of interest.  
Develop statistical, analytical and computer skills and learn various research methodologies.  
Get involved in campus organizations to develop leadership abilities and interpersonal skills.  
Consider earning a minor or double major to qualify for particular areas of interest, e.g. learn a foreign language for translating/interpreting positions. |
| **NONPROFIT** | Nonprofit organizations  
Social service agencies  
Hospitals and medical centers  
Private foundations, e.g. The Ford Foundation  
International organizations, e.g. The World Health Organization, The International Red Cross, and the United Nations | Seek volunteer and internship positions to gain experience.  
Hone skills in public speaking, writing, and programming.  
Obtain a degree in counseling for therapy positions.  
Learn to work well with people from varying backgrounds. |
| **BUSINESS** | Business corporations in various industries such as:  
Banking, retailing, insurance, financial services, travel and tourism  
Cultural resource firms  
International companies  
Consulting firms: Management, scientific, technical | Many businesses hire students of "any major" if they have relevant experience and have developed the skills employers seek.  
Minor in business or another relevant field.  
Obtain related experience through internships, summer and part-time jobs.  
Develop strong analytical and computer skills.  
Learn to work well on a team.  
Get involved in campus organizations and seek leadership roles. |
**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Most professional anthropological jobs require a graduate degree.
- Those interested in anthropology may specialize in one of its four branches: archaeology, cultural anthropology, linguistics, or physical anthropology. Many subfields exist within the larger specialties such as forensic anthropology, a subfield of physical anthropology. Typically students take a general curriculum as an undergraduate and specialize through graduate studies.
- As the demand for university/college faculty positions decreases, most openings will exist in consulting firms and government agencies.
- To increase your employment opportunities with a bachelor's degree, consider minoring or double majoring in another field such as sociology, business, urban planning, or public administration.
- Anthropology provides a solid background for a variety of graduate programs including law, medicine, forensics, or genetic counseling. Research admissions requirements and take prerequisite courses.
- Anthropology is good preparation for jobs that involve people skills and require an understanding of cultural differences.
- Spend a summer in field school or travel and study other cultures.
- Volunteer to help with a professor's research.
- Gaining relevant work experience through internships, practicums, part-time jobs, or volunteer positions is critical.

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### AREAS

**COMMUNICATIONS**
- Documentary Film Production
- Photography/Photojournalism
- Journalism
- Writing/Editing
- Publishing

### EMPLOYERS

- Colleges and universities
- Government agencies
- Government or private museums
- Local historical societies or sites
- Television and motion picture industry
- Internet media companies
- Independent production companies
- Publishing houses
- Newspapers and magazines
- Freelance/self-employed

### STRATEGIES

- Minor or double major in a communications field.
- Develop excellent communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Submit articles or books for publication.
- Work for campus or student run publications.
- Demonstrate talent, persistence, assertiveness, competitive spirit, and enthusiasm.
- Compile a portfolio of writing, graphics and ideas.
- Develop strong computer skills.
- Obtain internship, summer or part-time experience with book, magazine, or newspaper publishers.
- Develop an attention to detail and ability to meet deadlines.