

THE FIELD

Anthropology is the study of the diverse ways of being human. Anthropologists analyze material culture, participate in all aspects of people's lives, examine how people use and think about language, study the evolution of our species and the behavior of our closest living relatives (primates), and examine how people use and think about language. From human evolution to endangered languages, cultural diversity to health disparities, anthropology seeks answers to some of today's most complex questions. Anthropologists integrate knowledge in the social, biological, and physical sciences and the humanities. Our faculty and students are engaged in cutting-edge education and research to further our understanding of the world around us.

The Department of Anthropology is one of the largest in New England. All four subfields of anthropology—archaeology, cultural, biological, and linguistic anthropology—are represented in the faculty and in their research and course offerings. The department has large research and study collections in archaeology and biological anthropology, and several laboratories for biological anthropology, archaeology, and bioarchaeology.

A minor in anthropology is available.

THE MAJOR

The anthropology major offers four areas of concentration that crosscut the discipline's subfields and reflect the research and teaching strengths of the faculty:

- I. Cultural Anthropology
- II. Medical Anthropology & Global Health
- III. Evolutionary Anthropology
- IV. Archaeology & Cultural Heritage

Students may also pursue a general anthropology degree and/or identify a self-designed focus with the help of the chief undergraduate advisor.

Anthropology majors have a flexible set of requirements, reflecting the very broad scope of the field. Upon entering the major, students are strongly encouraged to meet with the chief undergraduate advisor to identify which courses best fit the student's academic and career interests.

The anthropology major requires a minimum of 42 credits in anthropology. These must include two foundation courses; four core concentration courses; a research methods sequence; one course with an Integrative Experience designation (IE); ANTHRO 364: Problems in Anthropology; and an International/Intercultural Requirement.

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Anthropology encourages close, hands-on engagement with the world around us. As an anthropology major, you will be given the opportunities and support you need to participate in projects and experiences that extend learning beyond the typical classroom setting. Faculty work closely with students through exciting research projects, lab work, field schools, internships, and numerous hands-on activities in the classroom and beyond.

Through these experiences, students gain a deeper understanding of foundational anthropological knowledge, while learning cultural competencies, developing analytical sophistication, and practicing social empathy. In addition, anthropology and anthropological engagement teaches and hones skills like critical thinking, collaboration, and communicating across differences that are so essential to navigating and excelling in a globalized world.

HONORS

Contact the departmental honors coordinator for information on how to pursue honors opportunities within the major.

STUDY ABROAD

The department encourages students to study abroad or to participate in domestic exchange programs. Students work with the International Programs Office (413-545-2710, umass.edu/ipo) and with the chief undergraduate advisor to select a program that best fits with the course of study.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Many anthropology majors attend graduate school in a variety of fields. Anthropology also provides a strong background for a wide variety of occupations. The skills that students gain in an anthropology major, which include effective written and verbal communication; strong research and analytical skills; the management, interpretation, and synthesis of various forms of data; and the ability to work with people of all backgrounds, are highly valued by employers in a number of fields. A major in anthropology can prepare you for a variety of career paths including, but not limited to: education, medicine and health, community development, museums, cultural resource management, cultural heritage and tourism management, private industry, international policy and humanitarian aid, community and non-governmental organizations, food organizations and industries, research laboratories, zoos, parks, and animal conservation, consumer and marketing research, and criminal justice system/forensics.

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

The social and behavioral sciences focus on behavior and organization from cultural, social, and biological perspectives, examining people as both social and individual beings. Undergraduates in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences study culture, society, and individual and social interaction processes and learn methods by which knowledge in the social and behavioral sciences is created. Students are guided by the SBS Pathways approach, integrating their academic, experiential, and professional pathways. They anchor their knowledge in at least one discipline, but are encouraged to expand this knowledge through various broadening experiences inside and outside the classroom.

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