**What is Anthropology?**

Anthropology is the scientific study of human beings and their cultures across time and space. The discipline uses field studies of other primates and the fossil record to understand how humans evolved. It uses the physical remains and material culture of human groups to understand how cultures have developed over time. Anthropology also investigates how existing human groups come to exhibit different social and cultural life-ways. In the broadest sense, anthropology is about how the human species came to be, how it developed myriad ways of living in the world, and how those ways may change in the future.

Anthropology as a discipline is as diverse as humans themselves. Some in the field focus on culture and social structures. Sociocultural anthropologists study living people and institutions, using a research method called ethnography where they immerse themselves in a group for an extended period of time, observing and recording, while participating in social life. Linguistic anthropologists focus on the development of language and the interrelationship of language, thought and behavior. Archaeology is the study of human beings through the material culture, artifacts, and traces on the landscape they leave behind. Biological anthropologists study human physical evolution and biological variation, analyzing how our culture affects our biology and how our biology affects our culture.

**Careers in Anthropology**

Anthropologists work in all types of public and private sector organizations and in all types of settings, both in the US and around the world.

A major in anthropology provides a useful and relevant foundation for many kinds of jobs. Because graduates understand many facets of human organization, communication, groupings and behavior, they are prepared to work with people of varied cultural backgrounds in roles such as:

- community development
- foreign diplomatic service
- forensic science
- museum work
- international business
- education
- public relations
- nonprofit organizations
- urban planning
- environmental preservation
- cultural resource management
- medical research


**Research Opportunities and Field Work**

The Anthropology Department works closely with UWM’s Office of Undergraduate Research to provide unique opportunities for undergraduates to gain hands-on research experience. Recent students have participated in an experimental archaeology project involving the butchering of an elk with stone tools, the curation of archaeological materials, and the inventorying and organization of data from an historic cemetery in Milwaukee.

Internships are another popular option for students. A faculty advisor and an on-site supervisor guide the student in the application of practical skills in a professional setting. Sites
Many anthropology students participate in service learning. As part of a designated class, students spend a portion of time each week working with a nonprofit agency. The professor, the on-site supervisor and the student mutually agree to learning objectives that tie the topic of the class to the nature of that particular nonprofit’s work.

Major Requirements

The anthropology major is designed for three kinds of students:

1. those who wish to specialize in anthropology or one of its subfields: archaeology, sociocultural anthropology, linguistics, physical anthropology
2. those who seek as part of their liberal arts education to gain a broader understanding of human behavior; and
3. those whose professional career interests require insight into social institutions and cultural patterns.

The program offers flexibility for students to choose their courses and tailor their major around a common core of classes in the four subfields: sociocultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology and linguistic anthropology. The major requires 36 credits including:

- One upper level (300 or above) course from each subfield: sociocultural anthropology, archaeology, physical/biological anthropology and linguistic anthropology.
- One Methods course (options include Anthro 497, 525, 535, 560, 561, 562, 566, 567, or 568).