

### ANTHROPOLOGY

<http://soan.gmu.edu/>

#### **Name and description of the field**

**Anthropology** is the study of human societies and cultures from the earliest appearance of humans as social animals with culture to ancient cities to contemporary societies and cultures. Students choosing to major in anthropology may concentrate in archaeology or sociocultural anthropology. These concentrations are optional and are designed to allow students to pursue their own particular interests in anthropology in depth.

**Archaeology** is the study of past societies. Investigations of material remains, documentary evidence and experimental projects all serve to enhance our understanding of the nature of past societies and how such cultures changed over time. Students concentrating in archaeology take courses in archaeological theory, archaeological field methods, laboratory methods in archaeology, biological anthropology and various area studies.

**Sociocultural Anthropology** is a traditional social science undergraduate program within the liberal arts. A concentration in this area involves a thorough grounding both in the comparative study of social and cultural systems and in social and cultural theory. Students concentrating in sociocultural anthropology take courses in various subspecialties of anthropology such as social organization, psychological anthropology, ethnohistory, and socialization processes.

#### **What special skills or abilities are needed to succeed in this major?**

*Analytical skills* - Courses emphasize the identification of significant cultural and social issues, the contrasting ways in which societies view such concerns and approaches to solving ensuing problems. The varieties of human societies are examined from the standpoint of change and continuity and the fascinating interplay that different cultures experience.

*Research skills* - Courses emphasize formulating specific problems or hypotheses to be addressed, designing a research project, selecting appropriate techniques of analysis, and defining workable solutions. Archaeology students will also have the opportunity to develop field, laboratory and computer skills applicable to the specific research problems typically faced in studying archaeological sites.

*Applied skills* - Communication and computer skills, statistical methods, and hands-on experience are emphasized in this program. These skills are useful in a broad range of post-baccalaureate pursuits.

#### **What are recent graduates doing?**

Students who graduate in Anthropology may continue graduate or professional studies in the following areas: anatomy, anthropology, conflict analysis and resolution, education, evolutionary biology, geography, geology, history, human biology, human development, international relations, journalism, law, medicine, psychology, public affairs, public health and sociology.

In recent years, many anthropologists have moved beyond the academy to utilize their specialized training in a variety of non-academic occupations. Cultural and linguistic anthropologists are working in international organizations, federal, state and local governments, business (both high tech and otherwise), non-governmental organizations, hospitals and school systems. Some find themselves working in biomedical research, human engineering or criminal justice. Others work for non-profit organizations involved in international development, social reform, human rights, and women's issues.

Careers for biological anthropologists with appropriate training exist in museums throughout the United States and the world. There are many public and private institutions in the United States with a primary emphasis on research in population and/or biomedical related phenomena in which anthropologists have made careers. Forensic anthropology is another area in which biological anthropologists have flourished.

Many government agencies employ archaeologists in a variety of positions including the State Historical Preservation Office, Bureau of Land Management, and State Parks and Recreation. In the private sector, cultural resource management firms that provide services for public works projects and commercial developments are a major source of employment for archaeologists.

There are many careers related to anthropology that include positions in medical research, urban and regional planning, public health, museums, VISTA, and the Peace Corps.

## EXPLORING MAJORS

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### Is it possible to minor in Anthropology?

Yes, a minor in Anthropology is offered.

### Specific job titles include:

National park interpreter	Research assistant	Museum exhibitor	Genealogist
Foreign affairs officer	Curator	Educational programmer	Ethnologist
Cultural artifact specialist	Staff archaeologist	Social science teacher	Medical anthropologist
History teacher	Linguist	Project coordinator	
Archaeologist	Urban planner	Policy analyst	
Principal analyst	Community service manager	Archeological field and lab technician	

**Career Library Resources** – Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/careerlibrary/wheretostart/anth.pdf> to see resources located in the Career Services Library in 3400 SUB I

**Major, Career & Job Hunting Information Online (links to the academic department, associations and other useful sites)** – Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/anth.htm>

### Whom should students contact for further information?

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