

ANTHROPOLOGY/ARCHAEOLOGY

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

EDUCATION

Teaching
Research
Administration
Library/Information Science
Community Education
Higher Education Administration and Student Support Services including:
Admissions
Financial Aid
Academic Advising
Development
Alumni Affairs
International Education and Study Abroad
Career Services
Residence Life
Student Activities and Greek Life
Orientation
Leadership

Universities/colleges/community colleges
University research institutes or laboratories
Campus museums
Zoos
Nature centers

Earn a doctoral degree in Anthropology for university and college faculty roles and at least a master's degree for two-year college positions.
Obtain 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 GPA and secure strong faculty 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

Functions Include:

Curation/Management/Administration
Acquisition
Preservation/Conservation/Restoration
Arrangement
Cataloguing/Categorizing
Exhibition/Installation
Describing
Analyzing
Authenticating
Maintaining Records
Research
Education
Development

Natural history or history museums
Historical homes
Art galleries
Libraries
Special collections
Historical societies
Universities and colleges
State and local government
Federal government, particularly the National Archives and Records Administration
Corporations
Non-profit organizations
Research institutions

Earn a graduate degree in museum studies, conservation, information science, or related area.
Research prerequisites and take the necessary courses. The most competitive candidates may have more than one graduate degree.
Acquire strong computer knowledge and experience.
Obtain an internship in a related organization.
Volunteer at campus or community museums.
Get involved with relevant student organizations.
Develop excellent written and oral communication skills, organizational skills, and an attention to detail.
Learn about grant writing, budgeting, and legal issues surrounding historical artifacts.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES CONTINUED

Join professional associations to have access to industry news and job information.
Attend relevant conferences, seminars, and trainings.
Earn the "Certified Archivist" designation.
Most curators specialize in a material or objects.
Be prepared to relocate to access the most employment opportunities.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Cultural Resource Management
Research
Excavation
Field Work

Consulting firms
Environmental/engineering companies
Firms specializing in archaeological investigation
Federal, state and local government
Urban and city planning offices
Historic preservation societies

Field positions require a bachelors degree and previous field experience. Get involved with faculty research or other research programs.
Obtain a graduate degree for more opportunities and to direct field crews.
Be willing to travel and possibly endure adverse living/working conditions during field studies or excavations. Conditions and hours vary with the type of work or research performed.

GOVERNMENT

Administration
Cultural Resource Management
Surveying
Site Management
Excavation
Research
Museum Conservation
Legislative Compliance Review
Program Management and Evaluation
Impact Assessment:
 Social
 Environmental
Policy Analysis
Urban Planning
Translation/Interpretation
Immigration
Epidemiology

Federal agencies including:
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Central Intelligence Agency
Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Institutes of Health, National Park Service, Public Health Service, Smithsonian Institute, Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Forest Service, Departments of: Conservation, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Natural Resources,
State agencies including:
Historic Preservation Offices
Parks Departments
Highway Departments
Medical Examiners/Coroners

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.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

NONPROFIT

Administration
Program Management and Development
Fund Raising/Development
Grant Writing
Research
Policy Analysis
Service Delivery
Volunteer Coordination
Community Education
Public Relations and Marketing

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
Special interest groups
Trade or professional associations
Libraries
Educational institutions
Cultural heritage organizations
Historical sites

Seek multiple volunteer and internship positions to gain experience and build contacts in the field.
Obtain leadership roles in relevant campus and community organizations.
Develop strong communication and research skills.
Learn how to write grants and gain an understanding of budgeting and fiscal management.
Investigate term of service or service corps positions as a way to gain entry into the field.
Research organizations' values to find a good fit with yours.
Consider earning a graduate degree for more job opportunities and advancement.

BUSINESS

Sales
Customer Service
Public Relations
Marketing
Management
Human Resources:
 Workforce Diversity Issues
Insurance:
 Claims Management
 Underwriting
Real Estate:
 Sales
 Property Management

Service providers
Wholesalers
Manufacturers
Retail stores including:
 Department stores
 Specialty stores
 Discount stores
 Super retailers
 Online retailers
Call centers
Financial institutions
Insurance companies
Real estate companies
Property management firms
Apartment complexes
Public relations departments of large companies or nonprofit organizations

Develop career goals and seek relevant experiences to prepare for those goals.
Earn a minor in business or supplement curriculum with business or communication courses.
Obtain relevant experience through part-time jobs or internships.
Work a part-time or summer job in a retail store.
 Demonstrate a willingness to take on additional responsibilities such as "assistant manager."
Participate in student organizations and seek leadership roles.
Learn to work well with different types of people
Develop a strong commitment to customer satisfaction.
For sales, develop the ability to work well under pressure and be comfortable in a competitive environment.
Be willing to start in a management-trainee program or other entry-level/developmental positions.
When job searching, seek employers interested in hiring "any major."
Understand the top skills employers desire and be prepared to demonstrate them, such as communication (oral and written), computer, interpersonal, leadership and teamwork, etc.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

COMMUNICATIONS

Documentary Film Production
Photography/Photojournalism
Journalism
Writing/Editing
Publishing

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

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.
Learn the latest technology and software related to electronic media.
Obtain internship, summer, or part-time experience with book, magazine, or newspaper publishers.
Develop an attention to detail and ability to meet deadlines.

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. Ample preparation should be taken as graduate school admissions are increasingly competitive.
- 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 bachelors 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.
- Pursue research experience by working on faculty projects through independent study classes, as a student employee, or through other departmental programs.
- Gaining relevant work experience through internships, summer jobs, or volunteer positions is critical.
- Join professional associations such as American Association of Physical Anthropologists.
- Forensic anthropology has become increasingly popular as well as competitive. Career opportunities exist within the national network of state and county medical examiners and coroners. Training at the graduate level should include supplemental work in legal evidence, pathology, criminology, and forensic lab methods along with supervised casework.