



INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS AT IUPUI

ANTHROPOLOGY

Culture in all times and places

WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY?

Anthropologists study human biology, culture, and social interaction across a broad expanse of time and place. The discipline includes four sub-fields:

- *Archaeology* - the study of human material culture in the past and present;
- *Cultural Anthropology* - the study of human social and cultural diversity throughout the world and in the United States;
- *Biological Anthropology* - the study of human physical diversity and evolution in both the past and present; and
- *Linguistic Anthropology* - the study of human languages, ancient and modern, written and unwritten.

An important feature of anthropology is its emphasis on fieldwork. This research method cuts across all sub-fields, and requires the researcher to be personally engaged with the people or material under study. We also emphasize understanding human life as it is experienced in many different contexts. Thus, by its very nature, anthropology has a comparative and international perspective. It is a discipline that bridges the sciences and humanities and, with access to information from nearly six million years of human evolution, it is unique in its historical depth.

WHY CHOOSE ANTHROPOLOGY?

The Anthropology Department at IUPUI focuses on training students to apply anthropological insights to real world problems in non-academic settings. This means our graduates are prepared to become practicing anthropologists in diverse range of organizations, agencies and institutions.

Anthropology majors have many opportunities to do fieldwork and develop their own research or applied projects while they are still students. We have a physical anthropology lab and comparative skeletal collection for introductory training in human osteology, bioarchaeology and forensic anthropology. We also have an archaeology lab for students whose interests are in excavation and material culture. We conduct ethnographic fieldwork here in Indianapolis and also organize archaeological excavations and field schools locally and in other sites around the Midwest. We encourage students to undertake collaborative projects with local community-based organizations and agencies and have facilitated many of these relationships already.

The Anthropology Department also supports a MA in Applied Anthropology as well as undergraduate and graduate certificates in Museum Studies.

MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY

First and second year

(12 credit hours/4 courses)

Complete core course requirements and begin advanced course work. Core requirements are:

- A103 Human Origins and Prehistory*
- A104 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*
- A201 Survey of Applied Anthropology*
- A360 History of Anthropological Thought*

Second and third year

(12 credit hours/4 courses)

Complete advanced courses (300 and above)** including one each from at least three of the four sub-fields and a methods course.

Senior year (10 hours/4 courses))

Complete advanced course work including a field course or study abroad,

Senior Capstone (A412)* for 3 hours, and the Senior Seminar (A413)* for one hour .

* Courses required of all majors.

** Courses chosen from an approved list of electives.

MINOR

The 15 credit hour minor in Anthropology is designed to supplement the student's major training, as they prepare for the successful pursuit of any career that involves human beings and the resolution of social problems. The Anthropology minor includes core and topical courses which provide students with the opportunity to engage in experiential learning and research in real life situations.

CAREERS

Students with degrees in anthropology from IUPUI have found employment in organizations such as:

- Social service agencies (government and private)
- Museums, zoos, and other public institutions
- Ethnic, cultural, and immigration organizations
- Elementary and secondary schools
- Health care agencies, especially those serving a diverse population
- Foreign service and foreign aid work
- Cultural resource management and contract archaeology firms

A variety of other anthropological careers are open to students who obtain advanced graduate training in the field. Approximately forty percent of our students successfully enroll in graduate programs.

INTERNSHIPS, RESEARCH & FIELD WORK

The two-semester senior capstone experience allows majors to apply and practice their anthropological skills through a three-credit Senior Capstone course taken in the Fall (ANTH A412) and a one-credit Senior Seminar course taken in the Spring (ANTH A413). These experiences generally take one of two forms. Many students opt for an internship with a community-based organization, museum, or business during which they provide a service for the organization while applying their anthropological skills. In other cases, students opt to conduct research that results in the production of a substantial paper. In addition, students are encouraged to obtain field experience, and many engage in local ethnographic and archaeological projects or choose to study abroad.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL CAREER SKILLS

The anthropology major prepares the student to work effectively in a diverse and complex world.

Anthropological skills include:

- Theoretical approaches and practical methods for enhancing cross-cultural understanding and communication;
- Detailed knowledge of a variety of ethnic groups within the U.S. as well as many nations beyond our borders;
- Skills in archaeological excavation and analysis;
- Skills in open-ended interviewing and ethnographic fieldwork in local communities;
- Basic understanding of human evolution and change over time;
- An understanding of human biological and cultural diversity that challenges common misperceptions and over-simplifications;
- Familiarity with museum work, cultural resource management, artifact analysis and repatriation issues;
- Understanding of the various forces shaping today's global, social, and cultural world;
- Experience in writing both descriptive reports and analytical papers

CONTACT US

Department of Anthropology
Cavanaugh Hall 413
425 University Boulevard
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

(317) 274-8207
liberalarts.iupui.edu/anthropology