

Anthropology, BS

Learning Outcomes

Graduates with a bachelor's degree in anthropology should be able to:

- describe a broad range of changing and diverse human experiences, practices, and challenges across time and space;
- demonstrate how diverse cultural backgrounds and structural inequalities, including race, gender, class, and other socially constructed categories of difference, relate to peoples' beliefs, experiences, and practices;
- understand the evolutionary and historical perspective as it pertains to human and nonhuman primates, including origins, behavior, ecology, biocultural variation, and material culture;
- apply anthropological research tools to collect and interpret data; and
- communicate anthropological concepts and findings.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Science with a major in anthropology requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including a minimum of 39 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major.

Students also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Students may count up to 56 s.h. of Department of Anthropology coursework (prefix ANTH) toward credit required for the Bachelor of Science degree.

The BS is appropriate for students with interests in any of anthropology's subfields; it offers enhanced opportunities to gain experience and develop skills in research methods and scientific reasoning.

Students may choose to complete one of two specialized tracks: archaeology or medical anthropology. See "Optional Undergraduate Tracks."

Undergraduates majoring in anthropology, including transfer students, must earn a minimum of 15 s.h. for the major at the University of Iowa. Students may apply credit earned at approved field schools offered by other institutions toward the major, with Department of Anthropology approval.

Students who declare anthropology as their major when they are admitted to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are advised at the Academic Advising Center until they have earned 30 s.h. Students who have earned more than 30 s.h. are advised by the departmental undergraduate advisor.

The BS with a major in anthropology requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Common Requirements	30
Advanced Coursework	6
Quantitative, Mathematical, or Formal Reasoning Tool	3
Allied Topical Field	
Optional Undergraduate Track	

Common Requirements

Students must complete three foundational courses, three global challenges courses, one course in comparative human experience, one course about people in places, and 6 s.h. in practicum and methods training.

Course #	Title	Hours
Foundational Courses		
Three of these:		
ANTH:1001	Issues in Anthropology	3
ANTH:1101	Cultural Anthropology	3
ANTH:1201	World Archaeology	3
ANTH:1301	Human Origins	3
Global Challenges		
Three of these:		
ANTH:2100	Anthropology and Contemporary World Problems	3
ANTH:2151	Global Migration in the Contemporary World	3
ANTH:2164	Culture and Healing: An Introduction to Medical Anthropology	3
ANTH:2261	Human Impacts on the Environment	3
ANTH:2320	Origins of Human Infectious Disease	3
ANTH:3237	Politics of the Archaeological Past	3
Comparative Human Experience		
One of these:		
ANTH:2102	Anthropology of Marriage and Family	3
ANTH:2136	Race, Place, and Power: Urban Anthropology	3
ANTH:2140	Food, Drink, and Culture	3
ANTH:2181	The Anthropology of Aging	3
ANTH:2190	Love Rules: Law and the Family Across Cultures	3
ANTH:2191	Love, Sex, and Money: Sexuality and Exchange Across Cultures	3
ANTH:3103	Environment and Culture	3
ANTH:3110	Colonialism and Indigenous Health Equity	3
ANTH:3125	Transnational Feminism	3
ANTH:3127	Anthropology of Death	3
ANTH:3152	Anthropology of Caregiving and Health	3
ANTH:3199	Understanding Health in an Unequal World: Anthropology and Global Health Policy	3
ANTH:3261	Our Life With Dogs: The Anthropological Study of Animals in Human Societies	3
ANTH:3278	Archaeology of Ancient Cities	3
ANTH:4140	Feminist Activism and Global Health	3
People in Places		

One of these:		
ANTH:1046	Environmental Politics in India	3
ANTH:2108	Gendering India	3
ANTH:2160	Culture, Health, and Wellness: Southeast Asia in Focus	3
ANTH:2165	Native Peoples of North America	3
ANTH:2182	Africa: Health and Society	3
ANTH:2220	The Olmec, Maya, and Aztecs: Archaeology of Mesoamerica	3
ANTH:3017	Decolonizing Anthropology in Native North America	3
ANTH:3121	Love, Marriage, and Family in India	3
ANTH:3239	The Archaeology of the First Europeans	3
ANTH:3243	Archaeology of the American Midcontinent	3
ANTH:3257	North American Archaeology	3
ANTH:3260	Pleistocene Peopling of the Americas	3
ANTH:3265	Archaeology of the Great Plains	3
ANTH:3275	Egyptian Archaeology	3
ANTH:3276	Greek Archaeology	3
ANTH:3277	Roman Archaeology	3
Practicum and Methods Training		
6 s.h. from these:		
ANTH:2208	Archaeological Methods	3
ANTH:2290	Practicum in Archaeology	arr.
ANTH:2390	Laboratory Methods in Biological Anthropology	arr.
ANTH:3117	Using Ethnographic Methods	3
ANTH:3207	Animal Bones in Archaeology	3
ANTH:3240	Cultural Resources Management Archaeology: Practice and Practicalities	3
ANTH:3255	Introduction to Archaeological Ceramics	3
ANTH:3295	Field Research in Archaeology	arr.
ANTH:3305	Human Osteology	3
ANTH:4080	Anthropology Internship	arr.
ANTH:4315	Human Evolutionary Anatomy	3

Advanced Coursework

Students must complete two additional anthropology courses (6 s.h., prefix ANTH) numbered 3000 or above.

Anthropology offers many options for advanced coursework, including courses dealing with environment and culture, expressive culture (art, verbal arts, literature, music, and dance), gender and sexuality, human evolution, human osteology, human prehistory, identity, medical anthropology, molecular genetics, psychological anthropology, and urban

anthropology. Department faculty members offer courses that focus on Europe, South Asia, and Native North America.

Quantitative, Mathematical, or Formal Reasoning Tool

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
COMM:1117	Advocacy and Argument	3
CS:1110	Introduction to Computer Science	3
CS:1210	Computer Science I: Fundamentals	4
LING:1050	Language and Formal Reasoning	3
MATH:1440	Mathematics for the Biological Sciences	4
MATH:1850	Calculus I	4
PHIL:1636	Principles of Reasoning: Argument and Debate	3
STAT:1010	Statistics and Society	3
STAT:1020	Elementary Statistics and Inference	3
STAT:2010	Statistical Methods and Computing	3
STAT:3510	Biostatistics	3

Allied Topical Field

Students complete a topical concentration in one of the following allied fields: biology, chemistry, computer science, earth and environmental sciences, economics, geographical and sustainability sciences, global health studies, health and human physiology, linguistics, mathematics, psychology, science studies, sport studies, or statistics and actuarial science. Minors (or at least five courses) in other fields, chosen in consultation with a student's advisor, also may be applied toward this requirement.

Students are strongly encouraged to take courses and participate in archaeological field and laboratory research, biological anthropology laboratory research, ethnographic research methods in sociocultural anthropology, and multimedia research in linguistic anthropology.

Optional Undergraduate Tracks

Students have the option of adding a particular focus to their study plan by completing a specialized track. They may choose one of two options: archaeology [p. 2] or medical anthropology [p. 3].

The optional tracks reflect broad issues bridging subfields in and outside of anthropology. Completion of a track indicates the acquisition of considerable expertise and is noted on a student's transcript.

The optional tracks each require 15 s.h. (typically five courses). By selecting courses carefully, students majoring in anthropology can complete a specialization track without adding to the semester hours required for graduation.

Archaeology

In North America and throughout much of the rest of the world, modern land use continually threatens evidence of past land use. Most archaeological excavations are conducted as cultural resource management (CRM), so it is essential that all

researchers who work with archaeological data and individuals committed to site preservation have a basic understanding of CRM. Students who choose this emphasis learn about the field, how to address related ethical issues, and technical and theoretical challenges.

The archaeology track requires a fundamental overview course, two area electives, a technical/practical elective, and a field school course.

Course #	Title	Hours
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Overview

This course:

ANTH:3240	Cultural Resources Management Archaeology: Practice and Practicalities	3
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Area Electives

Two of these:

ANTH:2165	Native Peoples of North America	3
ANTH:3243	Archaeology of the American Midcontinent	3
ANTH:3257	North American Archaeology	3
ANTH:3260	Pleistocene Peopling of the Americas	3
ANTH:3265	Archaeology of the Great Plains	3

Technical/Practical Elective

At least 3 s.h. from these:

ANTH:2208	Archaeological Methods	3
ANTH:2290	Practicum in Archaeology	arr.
ANTH:3207	Animal Bones in Archaeology	3
ANTH:3237	Politics of the Archaeological Past	3
ANTH:3255	Introduction to Archaeological Ceramics	3
ANTH:3305	Human Osteology	3

Field School

At least 3 s.h. from these:

ANTH:3295	Field Research in Archaeology	arr.
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An equivalent course from another university

Medical Anthropology Track

Human experiences of sickness and suffering are universal yet profoundly shaped by cultural and historical contexts. Medical anthropology explores cultural and biological diversity in sickness, health, and healing through approaches that include examining individual experiences of disrupted well-being, considering how biological and cultural factors interact to promote health or produce sickness, analyzing political/economic causes of health inequalities, and applying research to improve health research and services in an increasingly global world. Coursework in medical anthropology helps students prepare for a range of health professions and social services careers and for work in diverse settings that increasingly include nongovernmental organizations devoted to improving health. Future health professionals are increasingly called upon to understand how sociocultural and biological factors intersect to produce experiences of health, sickness, and healing.

The medical anthropology track requires an introductory course plus four electives that focus on health-related topics.

Elective options include courses numbered 2000–3999 that apply medical anthropology to specific topics, as well as a course numbered above 4000 that helps students engage with more complex topics in this field.

Course #	Title	Hours
Overview		
This course:		
ANTH:2164	Culture and Healing: An Introduction to Medical Anthropology	3
Electives		
Four of these:		
ANTH:2160	Culture, Health, and Wellness: Southeast Asia in Focus	3
ANTH:2181	The Anthropology of Aging	3
ANTH:2182	Africa: Health and Society	3
ANTH:2320	Origins of Human Infectious Disease	3
ANTH:3110	Colonialism and Indigenous Health Equity	3
ANTH:3118	Politics of Reproduction	3
ANTH:3152	Anthropology of Caregiving and Health	3
ANTH:3199	Understanding Health in an Unequal World: Anthropology and Global Health Policy	3
ANTH:3328	Molecular Genetics of Human Disease	3
ANTH:4140	Feminist Activism and Global Health	3

Teacher Licensure

Students interested in teaching in elementary and/or secondary schools should seek admission to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) in the College of Education.

To qualify for licensure in secondary teaching, students in the TEP complete a degree in education as well as a related College of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree. See Apply on the College of Education website for details on requirements and deadlines for applying to the College of Education and about TEP choices of majors leading to licensure.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in anthropology have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must have a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.50 in anthropology coursework and a cumulative University of Iowa GPA of at least 3.33. To graduate with honors in the major, they must conduct an independent research project that culminates in a 30–50-page thesis. The project includes the completion of 6 s.h. divided between ANTH:4995 Honors Research Seminar (offered only in fall semesters) and ANTH:4996 Honors Research, typically taken the next semester.

Students may count their directed research project or laboratory practicum toward the requirements for graduation with honors, but fulfilling the research requirement for the BS degree does not by itself fulfill the honors research

requirement. Students must work with their honors thesis advisor to structure their research so that it meets the added requirements of honors work.

Contact the department's director of undergraduate studies to learn more about honors in anthropology.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the university's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the anthropology major.

Career Advancement

The major in anthropology prepares individuals for advanced training or careers in anthropology, allied fields, and professional programs. Students who complete an anthropology major gain special understanding of human relations, as well as expertise for jobs involving international or cross-cultural work, cultural resource management, and responding to social and ethnic diversity, whether in the United States or globally.

Upon graduation, anthropology majors embark on careers in government, international affairs, conservation, economic development, public health, cultural resource management, planning and public affairs, social work, museum work, and education. Many go on to help resolve contemporary world problems by working with international or domestic organizations such as AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps, and Teach for America. Some pursue graduate study in anthropology or related social and natural sciences, while others earn degrees in business, law, or the health professions.

The Pomerantz Career Center also offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the university's Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Before the third semester begins: at least one anthropology course or other course in the major.

Before the fifth semester begins: at least four anthropology courses or other courses in the major, one course in the topical field, and one course for the quantitative or formal reasoning tool requirement.

Before the seventh semester begins: at least seven courses in the major, three courses in the topical field, the second quantitative or formal reasoning tool course, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: at least nine courses in the major, including the directed research requirement, and four courses in the topical field.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major (including the topical field), all

remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Anthropology, BS

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
Major: foundational course ^b		3
ENGL:1200	The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
or RHET:1030	or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^c		4 - 5
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
Elective course ^d		3
Hours		14-16
Spring		
Major: foundational course ^b		3
Major: comparative human experience course ^e		3
RHET:1030	Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
or ENGL:1200	or The Interpretation of Literature	
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^c		4 - 5
Hours		16-18
Second Year		
Fall		
Major: foundational course ^b		3
Major: quantitative or formal reasoning tool course ^e		3
Major: people in places course ^e		2
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course ^c		4 - 5
Hours		15-16
Spring		
Major: global challenges course ^e		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^f		3
Major: topical concentration course ^g		3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^c		4 - 5
Hours		16-17
Third Year		
Fall		
Major: global challenges course ^e		3
Major: topical concentration course ^g		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^f		4

GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^f	3
Elective course ^d	3
Hours	16
Spring	
Major: advanced anthropology course/optional track course ^{h, i}	3
Major: global challenges course ^e	3
Major: topical concentration course ^g	3
Major: topical concentration course ^g	3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society ^f	3
Hours	15
Fourth Year	
Fall	
Major: practicum and methods training course ^e	3
Major: topical concentration course/optional track course ^{g, i}	3
Major: topical concentration course/optional track course ^{g, i}	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^f	3
Elective course ^d	3
Hours	15
Spring	
Major: advanced anthropology course/optional track course ^{h, i}	3
Major: practicum and methods training course ^e	3
Major: topical concentration course/optional track course ^{g, i}	3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^f	3
Elective course ^d	3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) ^j	
Hours	15
Total Hours	122-128

- g Students complete a topical concentration in one of the following allied fields: biology, chemistry, computer science, earth and environmental sciences, economics, geographical and sustainability sciences, global health studies, health and human physiology, linguistics, mathematics, psychology, science studies, sport studies, or statistics and actuarial science. Minors (or at least five courses) in other fields, chosen in consultation with a student's advisor, also may be applied toward this requirement.
- h Students must complete two additional anthropology courses (6 s.h., prefix ANTH) numbered 3000 or above.
- i Students have the option of adding a particular focus to their study by completing a specialized track (15 s.h.) in archeology or medical anthropology.
- j Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.

- a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.
- b Choose three courses from ANTH:1001, ANTH:1101, ANTH:1201, ANTH:1301.
- c Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.
- d Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- e See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.
- f GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.