

Anthropology, BA

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;
- explain 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 Arts with a major in anthropology requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 33 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 must also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

In planning coursework, students should be guided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences maximum hours rule: students earning a BA may apply a maximum of 56 s.h. earned in one department to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation, whether or not the coursework is accepted toward requirements for the major; students who earn more than 56 s.h. from one department may use the additional semester hours to satisfy requirements for the major (if the department accepts them), and the grades they earn become part of their grade-point average, but they cannot apply the additional semester hours to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation.

Students who are earning two majors from the same department (e.g., a BA in anthropology and a BA in global health studies), two degrees from the same department (e.g., a BA in anthropology and a BS in global health studies), or a major and a minor from the same department (e.g., a BA in anthropology and a minor in global health studies) may apply more than 56 s.h. from their home department toward their degree, but they must earn at least 56 s.h. of credit in courses outside their home department in order to graduate.

The BA is designed to offer a comprehensive overview of anthropology's main subfields and the broadest possible cross-cultural background.

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 BA with a major in anthropology requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Common Requirements	27
Advanced Coursework	6
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 3 s.h. in practicum and methods training.

Course #	Title	Hours
Foundational Courses		
All of these:		
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: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: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

3 s.h. from these:

ANTH:1001	Issues in Anthropology	3
ANTH:2199	Practicum in Sociocultural Anthropology	arr.
ANTH:2208	Archaeological Methods	3
ANTH:2290	Practicum in Archaeology	arr.
ANTH:2390	Laboratory Methods in Biological Anthropology	arr.
ANTH:3015	Independent Study	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
ANTH:4996	Honors Research	2-4

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, and food), gender and sexuality, human evolution, human osteology, molecular genetics, and urban anthropology. Department faculty members offer courses that focus on Europe, South Asia, and Native North America.

Additional Coursework

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.

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 or medical anthropology.

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
Overview		
This course:		
ANTH:3240	Cultural Resources Management Archaeology: Practice and Practicalities	3
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 and 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.

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 fifth semester begins: at least two courses in the major.

Before the seventh semester begins: at least seven courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: at least eight courses in the major.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, 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.

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This sample plan is currently being reviewed and will be added at a later date.