

What can I do with a degree in... **ANTHROPOLOGY?**

What is **ANTHROPOLOGY?**

Anthropology is the study of humankind. Specifically, it is the study of what makes us human and how the diversity of our humanity helps us engage with the world differently. An anthropology degree allows students to study humankind, from the earliest origins of civilization to the present. Students pursuing an anthropology degree tend to focus their studies and research on one of the four sub-disciplines associated with the field: sociocultural, linguistic, archaeology, and bioanthropology.

As a social science, Anthropology prepares you to understand people; particularly people with different backgrounds or world views. Because Anthropologists have been trained to examine human diversity, they are very well suited to work with people, and/or study how people work.

Students in WCU's Anthropology Program develop skills in writing and critical analysis from a cross-cultural and historical perspective. Courses address contemporary methods and theories and are grounded in regional social science literature, particularly those focused on Africa, Latin America and Native North America. All of our upper-division classes (and most of our lower-division classes) use essay-based tests that draw on material from scholarly texts.

What are the **DEGREE OPTIONS?**

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Anthropology

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Anthropology

Students in the B.A. degree option must complete six credit hours of language courses.



What are the **CONCENTRATIONS?**

Students may choose from the following concentrations: Archaeological Practice; Archaeological Studies; Cultural Anthropology; and Forensic Anthropology.

What is the **ADMISSION PROCESS?**

Students declare an Anthropology major with the Advising Center, 2nd floor of Killian Annex. Please make an appointment with your advisor via your MyWCU or contact a faculty advisor.

What **JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?**

Depending on the concentration and other qualifications, our graduates are prepared to become a variety of professionals including archaeologists,

anthropologists, forensic anthropologists, advocates for human rights and social justice, counselors, community developers, cultural resource managers, educators, market researchers, historic preservationists, researchers, ecologists, public health officials, and more. **NOTE:** Advanced degrees may be required for some of the listed professions. Please see a career counselor or a Mathematics advisor for more information.

Who employs **ANTHROPOLOGY** graduates?

Our graduates gain employment with a variety of employers including government and non-profit agencies, businesses and consulting firms, hospitals and healthcare organizations, laboratories and medical examiner's offices, museums, libraries, zoos, colleges and universities, advocacy groups, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

MAJOR MAP

How to use this map: Review the four categories and suggestions of activities and when you should consider engaging in them. Remember, these are just suggestions! There is a fillable space for you to add in any other ideas you have to set yourself up for success in life after college.

1st YEAR

2nd YEAR

EXCEL IN ACADEMICS

Many first-year students in the Anthropology major will focus on the liberal studies requirements as well as introductory anthropology courses. [Check out the 8-semester plan](#) and make an appointment with your advisor.

Students in their second year will likely continue with liberal studies electives, intermediate Anthropology topics, as well as introductory courses with their minor. [Check out the 8-semester plan](#) and make an appointment with your advisor.

GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

Check out [WCU's DegreePlus program](#) and choose which events in any of the four categories you want to attend. Categories include: Professionalism, Teamwork, Leadership, or Cultural Responsiveness.

See what on-campus employment opportunities are available by logging in to [JobCat 2.0](#).

Get involved with the Anthropology Club or Lambda Alpha (invite only), the honors society for the field of Anthropology.

If you are thinking about attending a graduate school, start engaging in hands-on experiences required in graduate school admissions.

Engage deeper with [DegreePlus](#); choose an additional competency to complete

BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY

Connect with the [Center for Service Learning](#) and ask about the [Lily Award](#), a program aimed to encourage students to be connected with their community.

Job shadow with professionals in the career area you wish to pursue.

Volunteer with area non-profits or organizations which interest you.

Consider the [study abroad programs related to anthropology](#). Talk with a study abroad advisor about targeted experience for your areas of interest.

PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE

Further explore your career options or career interests using the [Center for Career and Professional Development's](#) online resources, [Vault](#), [Focus 2](#), and [Onet Online](#).

Connect with a career counselor early on to explore opportunities and experiences you can do while in college to further develop your professional resume.

Attend the [Catamount Career and Networking Day](#) to identify summer, part-time, or internship opportunities for additional hands-on opportunities.

Start a spreadsheet of graduate schools you wish to apply to in a few years with their admission requirements so that you are aware of the expectations.

Looking for a minor? Consider these options:

Cherokee Studies
Forensic Anthropology
History

Philosophy/ Religion
Psychology
Political Science

Sociology
Social Work

3rd YEAR

Third level courses focus on upper-level Anthropology courses, special topics relating to your career path, or your chosen minor. [Check out the 8-semester plan](#) and make an appointment with your advisor.

Consider internship experiences that will give you practical and hands-on experience to put on a resume.

Consider networking with professionals in your field at national or regional professional conferences such as the [National Association of Student Anthropologists annual meeting](#).

Develop deeper relationships with the organizations for which you volunteer. Ask for special projects or responsibilities that you can highlight on a resume.

Connect with alumni in your field through [LinkedIn](#)

Visit the CCPD to hone your professional resume and cover letter. Apply for internships. Utilize the [Writing and Learning Commons](#) for MCAT, GRE, and other professional exam preparation sessions. Use [Big Interview](#) to learn more about professional interviews.

Schedule a visit to tour graduate schools of your choice, if applicable.

4th YEAR

Courses in your final year will complete the major coursework requirement, concentration courses, as well as your chosen minor electives. Be sure to [check out the 8-semester plan](#), make an appointment with your advisor, complete your degree audit, and [apply for graduation!](#)

Investigate requirements for full-time jobs. Assess what skills or experiences you're lacking and invest time in seeking additional opportunities such as certification programs, classes, or professional development workshops during your last year to fill that gap. Connect with your faculty advisor or career counselor.

Join professional organizations such as the [American Anthropological Association](#).

Network with employers and non-profits at the [Cata-mount Career and Networking Days](#).

Apply to graduate schools, if applicable.

Look for and apply for jobs between 4 and 6 months before graduation.

Polish your resume, cover letter, and interview skills by using the [CCPD](#).

Internships are still the number-one educational experience employers look for in a recent college graduate resume. (Chronicle of Higher Education's study on 59,000 employers)

DID YOU KNOW?

MORE INFORMATION

Required **ENGAGED LEARNING** Contract

Students must also finish an approved Engaged Learning Experience to complete the requirements for the degree. Each student is required to work with his/her departmental advisor to enter into an Engaged Learning Requirement Contract no later than the end of the drop/add period in the semester prior to their graduating semester and must complete the contract no later than the last day of classes the semester prior to their graduating semester. This contract will detail the specific activities to be undertaken and corresponding deliverables to be produced during the experience. Engaged Learning Experiences may be associated with a travel course, independent study, internship, designated Engaged Learning course, or an independent engaged learning experience, but the timely completion of an Engaged Learning Requirement Contract is required.

SKILLS LEARNED in the classroom

The core competencies will center on developing skills, knowledge, and attitudes such as:

- information handling and organization
- curiosity and creativity
- critical thinking and evaluation
- problem solving
- statistical awareness
- data collection and research
- analytical and quantitative abilities
- written and oral communication
- professional teamwork

KNOWLEDGE Base

This program will prepare students to:

- Understand core concepts and theoretical perspectives in anthropology or sociology.
- Apply theoretical perspectives and methods to the study of anthropology or sociology.
- Communicate within the context of anthropology or sociology.
- Apply coursework within the major in preparation for future careers or education

Professional **RESOURCES**

- American Anthropological Association: www.aaanet.org
- Society for Applied Anthropology: www.sfaa.net
- American Association of Physical Anthropologists: www.physanth.org

QUESTIONS?

For questions, please call the Anthropology program at 828-227-7268 or visit anthropology.wcu.edu

To schedule an appointment with a career counselor, contact the Center for Career and Professional Development, 828-227-7133 or careerservices@wcu.edu.