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 biological anthropology. Anthropology has been described as "the most humanistic of the sciences and the most scientific of the humanities." -Eric Wolf

Why study **ANTHROPOLOGY?**

Anthropology helps answer many questions about the how's and why's of human beliefs, behavior, and biology. Because anthropology teaches you to think about people and the world in a critical and comparative way, it is very helpful for a wide variety of careers in our increasingly interconnected world.

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.

Students may also minor in Anthropology, as well as Forensic Anthropology.

What are the **CONCENTRATIONS?**

Students who choose to study Anthropology may also choose one of four concentrations:

- Archaeological Practice
- Archaeological Studies
- Cultural Anthropology
- Forensic Anthropology

What is the **ADMISSION PROCESS?**

Student declare an Anthropology major with the Advising Center, located in 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, autopsy technicians, medicolegal death investigators, 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 an 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**, 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 **Spark Award,** a program aimed to encourage students to be connected with their community.	Conduct an informational interviews 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, **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.	Check out **CCPD's list of career-building activities** and participate in an activity this year, such as attending Career Fair Plus. 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:

Biology
Chemistry
Cherokee Studies
Criminal Justice
History
Philosophy/ Religion
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 **American Academy of Forensic Sciences**, **Society for American Archaeology**, **American Anthropology Association**, **American Association of Biological Anthropologists**, **Southeastern Archaeological Conference**, etc.

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 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 **Lambda Alpha**.

Network with employers and non-profits at the annual Career Fair Plus event, held each semester

Apply to graduate schools, if applicable. Most graduate school applications are due between December and February.

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

Polish your resume, cover letter, and interview skills by vising the **CCPD.**

DID YOU KNOW? Internships are still the number-one educational experience employers look for in a recent college graduate resume. (Chronicle of Higher Education's study on 50,000 employers)

MORE INFORMATION

ENGAGED LEARNING

WCU's anthropology program is highly engaged both in and outside of the classroom. Our students routinely participate in a number of high-impact learning practices, including volunteering at a variety of institutions, assisting with or conducting research projects, and partaking in experiential internships.

FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY AT WCU

WCU's Forensic Anthropology program is home to the outdoor research laboratory, the Forensic Osteology Research Station, or FOREST. The FOREST is one of only a handful of a human decomposition facilities or "body farms" in the world, where students can actively learn about decomposition and the human body.

SKILLS LEARNED in the classroom

The types of skills gained through an anthropology education focus on understanding how people think, act, and function, all of which have been shown to be very difficult to automate. These core competencies include:

- information handling and organization
- interpersonal skills
- 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 Biological Anthropologists: www.bioanth.org
- Southeastern Archaeological Conference: www.southeasternarchaeology.org

QUESTIONS?

For questions, please call the Anthropology program at 828-227-3833 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.

Western Carolina University