"What Can I do With a Major in...Anthropology?"



Facts About an Anthropology Degree

- Anthropology graduates acquire skills that are useful in many careers, including public relations, law, development, business and governmental service
- Anthropologists' unique training and perspective enable them to compete successfully for jobs in research, evaluation, and project management
- With increasing globalization of trade and commerce, an awareness of cultural diversity has become imperative in today's marketplace

Skills Possessed by Anthropology Majors

- Knowledge about biological, ecological, and cultural factors that influence human behavior
- Theoretical approaches and practical methods for enhancing cross-cultural understanding
- Knowledge of a variety of ethnic groups, as well as many cultures and ethnic groups
- Skills in social research, qualitative interviewing and fieldwork, as well as quantitative methods
- A basic understanding of human evolution and genetics
- Experience in writing both descriptive reports and analytical papers
- The ability to analyze the root causes of social problems, and to work towards solutions with people from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds

From the University of Manitoba's Student Counseling and Career Center website.

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Possible Job Titles for Anthropology Majors



Anthropologists

Anthropologists study the origin and the physical, social, and cultural development and behavior of humans. They may examine the way of life, archaeological remains, language, or physical characteristics of people in various parts of the world. Some compare the customs, values, and social patterns of different cultures. Anthropologists usually concentrate in sociocultural anthropology, linguistics, archaeology, or biological anthropology.

Sociocultural anthropologists study the customs, cultures, and social lives of groups in settings that range from unindustrialized societies to modern urban centers.

Linguistic anthropologists investigate the role of, and changes to, language over time in various cultures.

Biological anthropologists research the evolution of the human body, look for the earliest evidences of human life, and analyze how culture and biology influence one another.

Archaeologists examine and recover material evidence including the ruins of buildings, tools, pottery, and other objects remaining from past human cultures in order to determine the history, customs, and living habits of earlier civilizations. With continued technological advances making it increasingly possible to detect the presence of underground anomalies without digging archaeologists will be able to better target excavation sites. Another technological advancement is the use of geographic information systems (GIS) for tasks such as analyzing how environmental factors near a site may have affected the development of a society. Most anthropologists and archaeologists specialize in a particular region of the world.

Academic Settings

On campuses, in departments of anthropology, and in research laboratories, anthropologists teach and conduct research. They spend a great deal of time preparing for classes, writing lectures, grading papers, working with individual students, composing scholarly articles, and writing longer monographs and books. A number of academic anthropologists find careers in other departments or university programs, such as schools of medicine, epidemiology, public health, ethnic studies, cultural studies, community or area studies, linguistics, education, ecology, cognitive psychology and neural science.

Corporations, Nonprofit organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Federal, State and Local Government

Anthropology offers many lucrative applications of anthropological knowledge in a variety of occupational settings, in both the public and private sectors. Non-governmental organizations, such as international health organizations and development banks employ anthropologists to help design and implement a wide variety of programs, worldwide and nationwide. State and local governmental organizations use anthropologists in planning, research and managerial capacities. Many corporations look explicitly for anthropologists, recognizing the utility of their perspective on a corporate team. Contract archaeology has been a growth occupation with state and federal legislative mandates to assess cultural resources affected by government funded projects. Forensic anthropologists, in careers glamorized by Hollywood and popular novels, not only work with police departments to help identify mysterious or unknown remains but work in university and museum settings. A corporate anthropologist working in market research might conduct targeted focus groups to examine consumer preference patterns not readily apparent through statistical or survey methods.

Forensic Anthropology

Medical examiners and coroners across the United States have recently become aware of the added values of having a forensic anthropologist on their staff. Forensic anthropologists are not only trained to identify skeletal material; some recent graduates have been hired to supervise morgue operations. Career opportunities exist within the national network of state and county medical examiners and coroners.

The Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii has recently increased its staff of forensic anthropologists to aid in the identification of skeletal remains from Southeast Asia and the Pacific area. Non-academic positions for physical anthropologists trained in the forensic area are expanding. With population increases resulting in the rise of crime rates, the demand for physical anthropologists trained in human identification will also increase.

Zoological Gardens

Physical anthropologists with specialties in primate genetics, both population and molecular, and behavior have the most relevant qualifications for employment in zoos. Careers in zoological gardens fall into two main categories: research related to captive propagation of endangered species and collection management. Captive management plans for rare species are driven by genetic considerations, because the space available for propagation in zoological gardens is limited.

Epidemiology

Epidemiologists study disease frequency, distribution, and determinants in human populations. Physical anthropologists interested in non-academic careers in the field of epidemiology should have certain qualifications as a result of their graduate training. Quantification and measurement are central to careers in epidemiology. The ability to derive measurements, and record and analyze data should be a part of all training. Statistical, demographic and computer skills are also very helpful. One should also be able to uniquely contribute to identifying subgroups of people at risk for disease. Anthropological/population genetics makes an important contribution to epidemiology; molecular biology is also becoming an increasingly important area. Anthropometric, nutritional, physiological and psychosocial dimensions of disease are important in the identification of individuals and groups at high risk for disease.

Careers in Museums

Museums, particularly museums of natural history, anthropology, archaeology, and science and technology, offer a number of employment possibilities for broadly trained physical anthropologists. The 1988 Official Museum Directory published by the American Association of Museums lists over 700 such institutions in the United States. Other categories of museums, such as university museums, academies and institutes, and general museums, may also have job possibilities for physical anthropologists.

The classic position for a physical anthropologist is a museum curator. However, such positions are few and exist in larger research institutions. Training for curatorial positions is the same as for academic positions in the same area of specialization. However, computer literacy for collection management and museum studies is useful, if not necessary.

Urban and Regional Planners

Urban and regional planners develop long- and short-term plans for the use of land and the growth and revitalization of urban, suburban, and rural communities and the region in which they are located. They help local officials alleviate social, economic, and environmental problems by recommending locations for roads, schools, and other infrastructure and suggesting zoning regulations for private property. This work includes forecasting the future needs of the population. Because local governments employ the majority of urban and regional planners, they often are referred to as community or city planners.

Planners promote the best use of a community's land and resources for residential, commercial, institutional, and recreational purposes. They address environmental, economic, and social health issues of a community as it grows and changes. They may formulate plans relating to the construction of new school buildings, public housing, or other kinds of infrastructure. Planners also may help to make decisions about developing resources and protecting ecologically sensitive regions. Some planners are involved in environmental issues including pollution control, wetland preservation, forest conservation, and the location of new landfills. Planners also may help to draft legislation on environmental, social, and economic issues, such as planning a new park, sheltering the homeless, or making the region more attractive to businesses.

*The content was adopted from the following websites: http://www.aaanet.org/careersbroch.htm, http://www.bls.gov/oco, http://weber.ucsd.edu/~jmoore/bioanthro/brochure2.html



Career Resources for Anthropology Majors



Specific Resources

About Anthropology Careers: http://archaeology.about.com/od/archaeologists/

American Anthropological Association: http://www.aaanet.org/index.htm

Anthropology Resources on the Net: <u>http://www.anthropologie.net</u>

AnthroTech: <u>http://www.anthrotech.com/career/</u>

Archaeological Institute of America: <u>http://www.archaeological.org/</u>

Careers, Opportunities, and Jobs in Archaeology: http://www.saa.org/careers/index.html

Society for Applied Anthropology: <u>http://www.sfaa.net/</u>

General Resources

*CareerSearch: <u>http://www.careersearch.net/Hofstra</u> (username-hofstra, password-career)

Occupational Outlook Handbook: <u>http://www.bls.gov/oco</u>

Riley Guide: <u>http://www.rileyguide.com</u>

*Spotlight On Careers: <u>http://www.spotlightoncareers.org</u> (username-lacn, password-holland)

*Vault: <u>http://www.vault.com/cb/careerlib/careerlib_main.jsp?parrefer=6123</u> (You will be prompted for your Novell username and password)

*These websites require you sign in using a username and password.



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Famous Anthropology Majors

Michael Crichton Author of "Jurassic Park"

Kurt Vonnegut Science Fiction Author

> Saul Bellow Author

Steve Riggio The Founder of the Barnes and Noble mega bookstore chain

> Tracy Chapman Singer

Jane Goodall

Primatologist

Mick Jagger Singer

Ashley Judd Actress

Jomo Kenyatta First President of Kenya

Margaret Mead Anthropologist and Former President of the AAAS

> John Clair, Monsanto Pope Football Players

Prince Charles of England Royalty



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