



# Anthropology Major

[www.Anthropology.Pitt.edu/Undergraduate](http://www.Anthropology.Pitt.edu/Undergraduate)

Revised: 06/2023

Anthropology is concerned with how humans and human societies evolve culturally and biologically. Anthropology explores the differences and similarities among human cultures and the biocultural processes that influence human biological diversity. It integrates a wide range of perspectives on human behavior, culture, and society. Students will become familiar with the basic concerns of four sub-fields of anthropology: archaeology, biological anthropology, cultural anthropology, and anthropological linguistics.

The anthropology program offers archaeology courses covering many geographic regions (Latin America, Africa, Europe, North America, among others), techniques of analysis, and issues in prehistory.

Course offerings in biological anthropology focus on evolutionary theory, human biological diversity and adaptability, bioarchaeology, forensic anthropology, paleopathology, and human and nonhuman primate evolution.

Cultural anthropology is represented by a wide variety of courses on culture areas including the Pacific, Caribbean, Latin America, China, Japan, South Asia, Eastern Europe and the United States. Classes provide cross-cultural studies of topics such as medical anthropology, social and political organization, power and resistance, gender, food, folklore, religion, and multispecies relationships.

Linguistic anthropology courses examine language and other sign systems (semiotics) in context, focusing on the complex relationship between language, society, and culture. Courses include issues surrounding language and power, resistance, decolonization, identity, media and society, and migration. Topics also include poetics and storytelling and semiotic anthropology.

Opportunities for student field work and research are provided through museum collections, participation in independent studies with faculty and graduate students, internships with local organizations, and summer field school experiences.

## Required courses for the Anthropology major

The anthropology major requires the completion of 33 credits distributed as follows. Students must complete two of the three primary introductory courses in Anthropology (ANTH 0582, ANTH 0680, and ANTH 0780) with a grade of C or better prior to declaring this major.

### Core courses

ANTH 0582 Archaeology  
ANTH 0680 Biological Anthropology  
ANTH 0780 Cultural Anthropology

### History of Anthropology course

ANTH 1552 History of Anthropological Thought

### One Writing Course in Anthropology

See Anthropology Undergraduate Canvas Page for full listing of Writing courses. Examples include:

ANTH 1447 Language, Culture and Society  
ANTH 1530 Origin of Cities  
ANTH 1560 Politics in Prehistory  
ANTH 1747 Writing Culture  
ANTH 1750 Undergraduate Seminar  
ANTH 1763 Field Methods in Cultural Anthropology

### One Methods course; these are offered in each sub-discipline

See Anthropology Undergraduate Canvas Page for full listing of Methods courses. Examples include:

ANTH 1505 Environmental Archaeology  
ANTH 1515 Lithic Analysis  
ANTH 1534 Archaeological Data Analysis  
ANTH 1541 Cultural Resource Management  
ANTH 1556 Zooarchaeology  
ANTH 1602 Human Skeletal Analysis  
ANTH 1617 Paleopathology  
ANTH 1709 Activist Anthropology  
ANTH 1763 Field Methods in Cultural Anthropology

### One Undergraduate Seminar course

ANTH 1750 or other Undergraduate Seminar. See Anthropology Undergraduate Canvas Page for full listing of Undergraduate Seminar courses.

### Elective courses

Students are required to complete a minimum of five elective courses in ANTH courses; three of these must be at the 1000 level.

### Grade requirements

A minimum GPA of 2.0 in departmental courses is required for graduation.

### Satisfactory/No Credit option

No course that counts toward the major can be taken on an S/NC basis.

### Writing (W) requirement

Students must complete at least one W course in the major.

The department strongly recommends a field school course for undergraduate majors.

### Honors major requirements

Students with a minimum overall GPA of 3.50 and a minimum GPA of 3.80 in their Anthropology courses may graduate from the department with honors, pending the submission and acceptance of a completed project representing substantial student research. An honors project may be the expanded version of a paper from a current or previous course, or may result from independent research.

### Undergraduate Anthropology Club

This organization offers workshops, hosts informal discussions, shows films, and organizes field trips for Anthropology majors and those interested in Anthropology.

### Lambda Alpha

Students with a minimum overall GPA of 3.25 and a minimum GPA of 3.50 in their Anthropology courses may apply for membership in the Delta Chapter of the Lambda Alpha Anthropology National Honor Society.

### Advising

Majors are entered into the anthropology course site on Canvas where current information on opportunities for research, funding, and experiential opportunities can be found. The Anthropology Director of Undergraduate Studies and undergraduate peer advisors maintain regular office hours. Students may make an advising appointment via Pathways. In addition, students are assigned a faculty advisor in their subdiscipline of interest.

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### Checklist for the Anthropology major

#### Required courses

\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH 0582  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH 0680  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH 0780  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH 1552  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH Methods course  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH 1750 or other Undergraduate Seminar  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH Writing course

#### Elective courses

\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH 1000 level \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH 1000 level \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH 1000 level \_\_\_\_\_

