



University of  
Pittsburgh

Dietrich School

# Anthropology Major

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

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

The anthropology program offers archaeology courses that explore how past peoples lived, adapted, and shaped their worlds. Courses cover topics such as the rise of inequality, food production, urbanism, environmental change, migration, and societal collapse and cover many geographic regions (Latin America, Africa, Europe, North America, among others). Students also may engage in archaeological methods such as lithic analysis, archaeobotany, GIS, remote sensing technologies, and isotope analysis.

Course offerings in biological anthropology focus on human biological diversity and adaptability from evolutionary and biocultural perspectives. Several courses explore the behaviors and biocultural adaptations of our primate relatives (e.g., monkeys and apes) and our evolutionary ancestors and relatives (e.g., *Homo erectus*, Neanderthals). Other courses focus on the *Homo sapiens* species, including human variation, bioarcheology, forensic anthropology, and paleopathology.

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.

### Core courses

ANTH 0582 Archaeology  
ANTH 0680 Biological Anthropology  
ANTH 0780 Cultural Anthropology

### One Writing Course in Anthropology; these are offered in each subdiscipline

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

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

ANTH 1447 Language, Culture and Society  
ANTH 1514 Alcohol in the Ancient World  
ANTH 1530 Origin of Cities  
ANTH 1549 Warfare Archaeology and Ethnography  
ANTH 1560 Politics in Prehistory

ANTH 1660 People and Other Animals  
ANTH 1747 Writing Culture  
ANTH 1750 Undergraduate Seminar  
ANTH 1755 Urban Anthropology  
ANTH 1756 Economic Anthropology  
ANTH 1763 Field Methods in Cultural Anthropology  
ANTH 1765 Language, Ethnicity, and Nationalism  
ANTH 1807 Community Archaeology

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

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

ANTH 1501 Archaeobotany Lab Methods  
ANTH 1505 Environmental Archaeology  
ANTH 1515 Lithic Analysis  
ANTH 1534 Archaeological Data Analysis  
ANTH 1541 Cultural Resource Management  
ANTH 1551 GIS in Archaeology  
ANTH 1556 Zooarchaeology  
ANTH 1561 Introduction to Archaeological Geophysics

ANTH 1570 Molecular Archaeology  
ANTH 1600 Human Biological Variation  
ANTH 1602 Human Skeletal Analysis  
ANTH 1617 Paleopathology  
ANTH 1709 Activist Anthropology  
ANTH 1763 Field Methods in Cultural Anthropology  
ANTH 1805 Bioarcheology

**One Undergraduate Seminar course; these are offered in each sub-discipline**

See Anthropology Undergraduate Canvas Page for full listing of Undergraduate Seminar courses.

**Elective courses**

Students are required to complete a minimum of six elective courses in ANTH courses; four of these must be at the 1000 level. Note that the required Writing course may also fulfill one ANTH 1000-level elective requirement. Only 3.0 credits of independent study courses ANTH 19xx may count toward the elective requirements.

**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, with the exception of ANTH 1900 which is only offered on an S/NC basis.

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

**Anthropology Honors 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. See Anthropology Undergraduate Canvas Page for Anthropology Honors guidelines and application.

**Undergraduate Anthropology Club**

This student-led organization offers workshops, hosts informal discussions, shows films, and organizes field trips for Anthropology majors, minors, and those interested in Anthropology. Students who are interested in participating can find out more information on [Experience.Pitt.edu](http://Experience.Pitt.edu).

**Lambda Alpha**

The Department hosts the Delta of Pennsylvania Chapter of Anthropology's national honor society, Lambda Alpha. Requirements for membership include a minimum overall GPA of 3.25 and a minimum GPA of 3.50 in Anthropology, completion of 16 credits of Anthropology coursework, and good standing in the department. Each semester, the Director of Undergraduate Studies sends invitations for Lambda Alpha membership to eligible students. Membership is granted by the national office following completion of an application and the processing of a small membership fee.

**Advising**

Majors are entered into the anthropology course site on Canvas where current information on degree requirements, course offerings, opportunities for research, funding, and experiential opportunities can be found. Majors are primarily advised by the Anthropology Undergraduate Academic Advisor. The Anthropology Undergraduate Academic Advisor, Director of Undergraduate Studies, and undergraduate peer advisors maintain regular office hours. Students may make an advising appointment via Pathways.

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**Checklist for the Anthropology major**

**Required courses**

\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH 0582  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH 0680  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH 0780  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH Methods course  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH Undergraduate Seminar  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH Writing course

**Elective courses**

\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ANTH 1000 level \_\_\_\_\_  
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Note that the required Writing course may fulfill one ANTH 1000-level elective requirement.