

# anthropology



[www.wou.edu/las/social/anthro](http://www.wou.edu/las/social/anthro)

**Anthropology** is the holistic study of humans from an evolutionary and cross-cultural perspective. It encompasses biological and cultural, historical and contemporary, material and symbolic aspects of human existence. Anthropologists work with empirical data collected through fieldwork, participant observation and laboratory analysis. Our program is designed to convey a broad understanding of how humans have come to depend on a diverse array of cultural strategies for adaptation, survival and symbolic expression in an increasingly complex world.

A bachelor's degree in anthropology can also give you an increased understanding of cultural diversity – from both the past and present. Through the study of human cultures, anthropology majors develop a meaningful perspective of the American society and its place among others. You'll take courses that explore humanity's evolutionary past, archaeology (study of those who lived long ago), ethnography

(study of those who are living now), physical and linguistic differences among people, and other topics related to anthropology. You'll learn to see the world through a new lens, and you'll graduate with the broad perspective and investigative tools you need for a successful career in the wide-ranging field of anthropology.



Anthropologists are trained observers with an eye for detail. You should have a certain level of global awareness, as well as a general curiosity about people and cultures around the world. To succeed, you must build excellent investigative and critical thinking skills, as well as strong oral and written communication abilities. To prepare for the program while still in high school, take courses in history, biology and world events. It's also helpful to gain exposure to other cultures through museums, art galleries and travel.

Students will discover that their undergraduate degree in anthropology is a sound foundation for work in a wide variety of fields. Anthropology students develop a long-range, evolutionary perspective on human history, a scientific perspective on the relationship between race and culture, a broad view of humanity and cultural diversity, and an understanding of cultural continuity and change. Critical thinking and clear writing skills are emphasized. With these perspectives and skills, anthropology majors find positions in educational institutions, medical facilities, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and federal, state and local government.

## Social Science Division

Anthropology M/m

M=majors/m=minors



Find out more about the anthropology degree programs at Western Oregon University: 503-838-8288 [www.wou.edu/las/socsci/anthro](http://www.wou.edu/las/socsci/anthro)

See the current catalog for a complete list of classes and course descriptions, available online at [www.wou.edu/catalog](http://www.wou.edu/catalog).

**WESTERN OREGON**  
UNIVERSITY

# anthropology

## Career opportunities

A bachelor's degree in anthropology prepares you for a variety of dynamic career opportunities, including the following: analyst, applied anthropologist, archaeologist, archivist, art director, conservator, cultural anthropologist, curator, ecologist, educator/teacher/professor, forensic scientist, health services provider, market researcher, museum exhibit designer, park guide/ranger, physical anthropologist, project evaluator, researcher, social worker and tour guide.

Organizations in today's increasingly global economy demand employees who have a global perspective and strong understanding of cultural diversity. A degree in anthropology gives you the tools and knowledge to excel in a wide range of careers in both the public and private sectors. Graduates of the program may also pursue careers in: international business, nonprofit organizations, private industry, museums and zoos.

## Curriculum

Our program offers foundation courses in the traditional four subfields, presents methods and theories developed by anthropologists and emphasizes application of anthropological thinking to problem-solving in the contemporary world. The number of required courses is small in order to afford maximum flexibility in tailoring a program to fit individual goals.

## Field experience

The capstone of our curriculum is the Senior Project, a three-term sequence. The first term, Research Design, is spent designing an individualized research project under the direction of a faculty mentor. The second term, Field Experience, is an out-of-classroom research, volunteer work, internship, study abroad or employment experience that uses and challenges the student's anthropological knowledge. Overseas and cross-cultural experiences are encouraged and can be arranged through a variety of avenues. The final term, Senior Project, results in a formal paper that analyzes the experience and summarizes outcomes.



## Get involved

The Western Oregon Anthropology Society (WOAS) aims to connect anthropology majors, minors and other students interested in anthropology by organizing talks, debates, fieldtrips and other fun activities. The society provides opportunities for leadership, offers peer tutoring and informal learning, and promotes student involvement in community service and activism.

## The African Studies Committee

The African Studies Committee is an informal group of students, staff, and faculty at WOU who are interested in Africa and African Studies. The committee encourages teaching and scholarship on Africa, with the goal of educating the campus and local community about Africa. The committee provides information about resources at Western Oregon University, including faculty and staff members with expertise in African studies, study abroad programs, internships, course offerings, and films. The committee also seeks funding to expand African studies resources and organizes campus and local community events pertaining to Africa. In addition, the committee supports faculty and student research on Africa and facilitates dissemination of research through the regularly held lectures and seminars.

## Jensen Arctic Museum

The Jensen Arctic Museum houses a unique research collection on circumpolar peoples, offering unparalleled opportunities for the study of culture and human adaptations to challenging environments, of culture change and cross-cultural encounters, and of problems in interpretation and representation of other cultures. Three-quarters of the exhibits are student-designed.

## Classes to expect in the anthropology program

### Anthropology

Anthropological Theory  
Archaeology  
Cultural Anthropology  
Ethnographic Methods  
Field Experience  
Language and Culture  
Physical Anthropology  
Research Design  
Senior Project

### Methods courses:

Ethnographic Writing  
Laboratory Methods in  
Archaeology  
Museum Studies  
Research Methods in Archaeology

### Theory courses:

History and Theory of Archaeology  
Human Evolution

### Topical/regional courses:

Africa  
Anthropological Approaches to  
Law  
Anthropology of Islam  
Applied Anthropology  
Childhood in Cross-Cultural  
Perspective  
Circumpolar Peoples  
Contemporary Chicano/a/  
Latino/a Culture  
Environmental Anthropology  
Evolution of Human Societies  
Ethnographic Writing  
Historical Archaeology  
The Indian in American Culture  
Latin America  
Modernization  
Mothers and Daughters  
North American Prehistory  
Northwest Indian Cultures  
Pastoral Nomads  
Political Anthropology  
Religion and Ritual  
Social Constructions of Race  
South American Prehistory  
Transnational Migration  
Tribal Art of the US and Canada  
Urban Anthropology  
Visual Anthropology  
Women Anthropologists  
Women in Cross-Cultural  
Perspective  
World Prehistory