Anthropology and Anthropological Sciences

Anthropology is the study of the biology, prehistory and culture of human society in a worldwide setting. Anthropologists study people from all times and all places. Anthropology focuses on human and non-human primate evolution by studying the behavior of living and extinct human and primate groups (physical anthropology). It looks at cultural history and past lifeways and studies how human societies have changed from ancient to modern times (archaeology). It also examines the behavior of living societies in order to understand differences in contemporary cultures (cultural anthropology and linguistic anthropology). This includes the study of topics such as language, kinship, religion, ecology, urbanism, and culture and personality.

Pursuing Anthropology at Ohio State
All freshman applicants to the Columbus campus are considered within a competitive admission process; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions. Upon admission to the university, students declare an interest in anthropology or anthropological sciences within the College of Arts and Sciences. Interested students contact the undergraduate advisor for anthropology and a counselor in Arts and Sciences Advising.

The department offers two anthropology major programs. The anthropology major leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree and is designed to broadly prepare students in each of the three major anthropological subfields. This major provides training for a variety of career options including—but not limited to—those in the humanities and the natural, social and behavioral sciences.

The anthropological sciences major leads to a Bachelor of Science degree and provides an intensive foundation in empirically oriented evolutionary anthropology. This major is geared towards students committed to pursuing graduate studies and research in the anthropological sciences, the biomedical sciences or professional employment in anthropology.

The curricula of core courses consist of material designed to develop critical thinking, communicative and analytic skills, and an understanding of the theoretical foundations of each subdiscipline.

Anthropology Requirements
The anthropology major, leading to a BA, requires a minimum of 34 credit hours.

- One prerequisite course, Introduction to Physical Anthropology
- Core courses (15 hours): World Prehistory, Peoples and Culture, History of Anthropological Theory, Fundamentals of Archaeology, and either Human Evolution or Human Variation
- An additional course in each of the subfields of anthropology (9 hours)—archaeology, physical anthropology and cultural anthropology
- Six hours taken from any subfield of anthropology

Anthropological Sciences Requirements
The anthropological sciences major, leading to a BS, requires a minimum of 44 credit hours.
- Two prerequisite courses: Introduction to Physical Anthropology and an introductory statistics course
- Core courses (18 hours): World Prehistory, and Peoples and Cultures, Hunters and Gatherers, Fundamentals of Archaeology, Human Evolution, and Human Variation
- An additional course in each of the three subfields of anthropology (9 hours): archaeology, physical anthropology and cultural anthropology
- Six hours taken from any subfield of anthropology.
- One course (3 hours) from outside the anthropology department: Evolution

The National Science Foundation’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates and the International Research Experience for Students programs fund multiple students for research in Hungary each year.

Ohio State houses the nation’s premier paleoethnobotany laboratory and a state of the art bioarchaeology laboratory.

Co-Curricular Opportunities
The undergraduate student organization, the Anthropology Club, offers a chance to get to know other students and to hear from faculty about research and field study opportunities.

A forensic field school is offered every summer on the Columbus campus. In addition, the department regularly offers an archaeological field school in either the United States or Europe. In the United States, this includes fieldwork especially in the Midwest.

For the next several years, Ohio State has a project in Hungary that involves student participation. Internships also are strongly encouraged in a range of settings, including museums, contract archaeology firms, and in a variety of local, state and federal agencies.

Undergraduates can become involved in diverse laboratory and field-based research opportunities. We are on the leading edge of undergraduate training of anthropological scientists and are poised to offer more opportunities.

For more information, check these websites:

Anthropology: anthropology.osu.edu
College of Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience Program: fye.osu.edu
Various methods classes in archaeology and physical anthropology introduce students to artifact excavation and analysis as well as numerous aspects of physical anthropology including the study of human remains.

In addition to general laboratory space for undergraduate research, students benefit from exploring the following:

- The premier paleoethnobotany laboratory in the nation
- A state of the art bioarchaeology laboratory
- An extensive collection of human skeletal remains
- Laboratory resources and comparative materials for forensic studies
- Archaeological field projects (via field schools or independent study) in Ohio, Hungary and Yemen
- Bioarchaeological field projects in Italy and Turkey
- Paleoanthropological field experience at fossil hominid sites in South Africa and paleoecological data analysis
- Cultural ecology and human biology field experience in the Amazon and Cameroon
- Economic anthropology with an emphasis on Mexico
- A human biological anthropology laboratory with genetic, anthropometric and physiological equipment
- An established research station with habituated non-human primates in the Ivory Coast (West Africa)
- A large collection of non-human primate skeleton-dental material from West Africa

Honors & Scholars Programs

The Department of Anthropology offers honors sections of the introductory courses that survey the basic concepts and knowledge of the three major subdivisions (Introduction to Physical Anthropology, World Prehistory, and Peoples and Cultures). Honors students may pursue graduation with distinction in anthropology by completing a senior honors thesis. Non-honors students may also graduate with research distinction by the completion of a senior thesis.

Career Opportunities in Anthropology

A variety of employment opportunities exist for a graduate with an anthropological degree, including contract or government archaeologist; admissions counselor; museum curator; mental health consultant; social service worker; laboratory assistant; foreign service agent; international business associate; or forensic anthropologist. Graduates in anthropology from Ohio State have found employment in a range of careers in business, health professions, engineering, government, law, education, social services and museums.

Revised June 2015. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the anthropology program, visit anthropology.osu.edu.

Contact information:

Prof. Scott McGraw | Department of Anthropology
4034 Smith Lab | 174 West 18th Avenue

Curriculum Sample*
This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue the anthropology major leading to a BA. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests.

Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in anthropology. Consult the departmental website, anthropology.osu.edu, for details.

Freshman Year
Introduction to Physical Anthropology  4
Survey course  1
World Prehistory  3
Peoples and Cultures  3
Introductory Biology  3
Minor/elective  3
Freshman seminar  1
GE courses  12
Total hours  30

Sophomore Year
History of Anthropological Theory  3
Indians of North America  3
Human Origins  3
GE courses  21
Total hours  30

Junior Year
Cultural Ecology  3
Fundamentals of Archaeology  3
Biosocial Aspects of Health  3
Minor/electives  12
GE courses  12
Total hours  33

Senior Year
Primate Behavior  3
Prehistoric Indians Eastern North America  3
Culture and Ideas  3
Issues of the Contemporary World  3
Minor/electives  18
Total hours  30

*The curriculum for the BS in anthropological sciences would differ. Interested students should contact the department for a detailed sample curriculum.

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