

Anthropology



Anthropology is a broad discipline that reveals who we are past and present. Anthropologists study people and other primates using a wide variety of exciting techniques including exploring the social, cultural and biological diversity of human and nonhuman primate communities, as well as discovering material remains of the past through excavations. The skills we develop allow us to pursue a wide range of careers in schools, laboratories, nonprofits, government, marketing firms, universities and museums. Our Alumni Advisory Council consists of our Anthropology graduates from various employment sectors who can mentor you toward internship and employment opportunities.

Diverse Areas of Study

Anthropologists are adventurers. We trek around the world through time and space to understand who we are as humans. Archaeologists and biological anthropologists search for clues about our deep past, while cultural and linguistic anthropologists travel the world on a quest to understand the richness of human diversity. Anthropology encourages and inspires us to reflect on what it means to be human, past and present, and to help shape our future.

Clubs, groups, events

The Anthropology Club is a student-led club that coordinates social and academic events. The department also hosts monthly Mashups where students and faculty informally discuss their research. In the spring, we host World Anthropology Day with music and food in a warm social environment. The Student Advisory Board for the Pick Museum of Anthropology provides opportunities to plan events and help guide the museum's programming.

Student Opportunities

As part of your studies, you can participate in a wide variety of activities for academic credit. You can conduct research close to home or in countries such as Madagascar and Haiti, conduct individual and group research projects with professors, become involved in local community organizations and work at the Pick Museum of Anthropology. We can help you find off-campus internships that align with your career goals.

“The NIU Anthropology Department consists of a small community of students and world-class faculty, it makes you feel like you have an academic family. Undergraduates are able to work and learn with graduate students and have personal experiences with faculty; this helped prepare me for grad school and beyond. The dedication of everyone involved in the program really makes NIU Anthropology shine.”

—Adam Pope, B.A. 2016



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Department of Anthropology

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Degree Requirements

Our courses are taught by distinguished Ph.D professors who have active research programs that engage students. Classes are small and include hands-on activities such as identifying bones and fossils in our “bone lab,” library research, interviews with community members and preparing artifacts in the Pick Museum of Anthropology.

Students can complete either a B.A. or B.S. degree for the Anthropology major.



Requirements in Department

ANTH 210 Exploring Archaeology

ANTH 220 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

ANTH 230 Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology

ANTH 240 Becoming Human: Discovering Human Origins

One 300- or 400-level course in Archaeology, Cultural Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology and Physical Anthropology.

Four classes in one of four emphasis areas:

- A) Social Complexity and Inequality.
- B) Environment and Evolution.
- C) Language, Culture and Mind.
- D) General Anthropology.

For a list of classes in each emphasis area visit go.niu.edu/undergraduate-studies.

Nine semester hours of coursework at the 200 level or above in a single discipline outside of Anthropology. This can facilitate the completion of a minor in programs like Southeast Asian Studies, Latino Studies, Nonprofit and NGO Studies or a certificate in programs like Geographic Information Systems or Women and Gender Studies.

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Careers in Anthropology

Anthropology prepares you for exciting 21st century careers. Employers want their employees to have a critical understanding of our increasingly multicultural world and global economy. Our graduates have those skills and are proficient writers, communicators, critical thinkers, researchers and team members. These abilities allow our graduates to pursue a variety of careers such as college professors and community college teachers, corporate positions linked to consumer preferences, counselors, librarians, museum directors, nonprofit program managers, urban and regional planners and positions in all levels of government and international organizations.



Northern Illinois University