Transfer Guide Leading to a Bachelor’s Degree in Anthropology

All degree requirements are subject to the provisions and notices in the NIU Undergraduate Catalog. Information is valid through November 2016.

Courses Highly Recommended Prior to Transfer:
As you earn your associate’s degree or work toward completion of the IAI General Education Core Curriculum, you should try to take classes that will satisfy requirements for your degree at NIU. It is beneficial for you to complete as many of your B.A. or B.S. requirements as possible at your community college.

How to Choose Between a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

Choose a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) if: you are interested in cultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, or archaeology. You should develop the language skills needed to study a particular region of the world. A B.A. requires completion of a 2-4 semester sequence of a foreign language, and it is best to study a language appropriate to your interests (e.g., Spanish for Latin American archaeology).

Choose a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) if: you are interested in physical anthropology or in archaeology with a particular interest in laboratory work. A B.S. at NIU requires you to take a combination of lab science courses or computer science, math and computational skills courses. Transfer students pursuing a B.S. should try to complete at least a MATH 110 equivalent with a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Courses Highly Recommended Prior to Transfer for a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.):
- Anth 210
- Anth 220
- Anth 230
- Anth 240

Courses Highly Recommended Prior to Transfer for a Bachelor of Science (B.S.):
- Anth 210
- Anth 220
- Anth 230
- Anth 240

Courses to be completed at NIU:
In addition to ANTH 210, 220, 230 and 240
Undergraduates students need at least one 300 – 400 level in each of the following categories:
- Archaeology
- Cultural Anthropology
- Linguistic Anthropology
- Physical Anthropology

At least two 300/400 level in the following categories:
- History and Theory of Anthropology
- Special or Multidisciplinary

At least 6 hours of electives in consultation with faculty advisor

9 hours outside of anthropology in the 200 level or above or a minor in one other Department (e.g. 3 classes in the History Department).
About the Department
The Department of Anthropology at NIU offers a broad range of courses and training opportunities in anthropology. All four subdisciplines (archaeology, linguistic anthropology, physical/biological anthropology, and social/cultural anthropology) are available at NIU, and members of the faculty are among the leading anthropological scholars in their areas of expertise. Upper-division classes are small (15 to 25 students), providing students with the opportunity to interact closely with the faculty. In addition, many students participate in research and field projects and study abroad programs.

Faculty:
The anthropology faculty members all hold doctorate degrees. Faculty research and teaching interests span all four subdisciplines of anthropology, and the department boasts excellent research programs and teaching collections. Faculty members play central roles in NIU’s Women’s Studies Program, and in the Centers for Southeast Asian Studies, Latino and Latin American Studies, Environmental Studies Program, NGO Leadership and Development, and the Cognitive Studies Initiative.

Engaged Learning Opportunities:
Ongoing research programs allow our majors many opportunities for student engagement. For example, one field school to Madagascar allows students to become involved in lemur conservation and research. In addition, many undergraduates are involved in research projects with faculty members as part of a variety of programs (e.g. USOAR, URAD, and Research Rookies) administered by the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning.
Another integral aspect of anthropology at NIU is the James B. and Rosalyn L. Pick Museum of Anthropology, which provides students the opportunity to become involved in museum research and collections management. The Department also houses one of the largest osteological collections in the Midwest with over 10,000 specimens concentrated on non-human primates, human specimens illustrating both normal and abnormal development, and paleontological casts.

Student Organizations:
The Anthropology Club is a student-run organization that is open to all NIU undergraduate and graduate students who have an interest in Anthropology. The goal of the club is to organize social and academic events. For example, students organize brown bag lunch seminars which allow faculty or graduate students to show slides of recent research trips, or present data from their current research projects.

Career Information:
Students with a degree in Anthropology are well-qualified for a broad range of employment. For example, all Anthropology majors have an excellent understanding of human biological and cultural diversity which is important for all people-oriented professions such as teachers, health care workers, international business, social service jobs, management positions, and government employment. In addition, Anthropology majors have the research skills for collecting and understanding information. These skills are appropriate for pursuing advanced degrees in graduate schools in anthropology, law and public health. They are also necessary for employment in marketing, non-profits, museums, and libraries. Finally, Anthropology majors are effective communicators. Thus, they are well qualified to find jobs in fund-raising, customer service, public relations, marketing, sales, and many other professions. Anthropologists are therefore employed in a wide range of professions including, research specialists, museum technicians, park rangers, cultural resource specialists, archaeological field technicians, and development officers.

For More Information
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