If you are interested in why people think and behave the ways they do, anthropology is a discipline you will find intriguing and useful for your life. Anthropology focuses on the holistic study of diverse peoples and cultures with a central focus on what it means to be human. In today’s globalizing and climate-imperiled world, learning how to understand human societies in all their rich diversity and earthly impacts is essential. Many of our courses involve hands-on work in community settings and in laboratory settings.

Why UMD

New and long-standing courses bring exciting opportunities to our students, including digital ethnography, world ethnography, visual anthropology, business anthropology, legal anthropology, medical anthropology, sustainability, the environment and energy, equitable governance of shared resources, and more. We also provide our majors with a Careers in Anthropology course to help plan for post-college careers. We offer internships, field schools and other professionalization opportunities that provide immersive learning. Our curriculum throughout emphasizes the development and refinement of writing, communication, and participatory media skills necessary in today’s world.

Acquired Skills

Areas of knowledge and skills our program delivers:

- specific ethnographic areas such as Middle, Central and South America, the Middle East, Europe, North America (including U.S. culture), Africa.
- political, social, and environmental issues within the context of international and intranational diversity, framed within the Department’s overall unifying socially-relevant themes of inequality, identity, power, social change and development, and global multiculturalism.
- community engagement and participatory culture.
- major historical and contemporary theoretical perspectives.

Career Possibilities

Our graduates go on to a wide variety of fields. Some go into education, some into business, some into nonprofit work, some on to graduate or law school, and some into the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps or government positions, and into productive lives as articulate citizens in their respective communities. As suggested below by the diverse examples of the professional paths of past graduates, our program prepares students with essential skills of critical thinking, effective cultural analysis, articulate oral and written communication, proficient project management and creative problem solving. Our Careers in Anthropology and Senior Seminar courses focus directly on helping our students to understand the professional opportunities available to them as liberal arts graduates trained in a social science that prepares them for a lifetime of learning and career self-development.

Scholarships

Outstanding Student Award in Anthropology
Student Clubs

Anthropology Club

Graduate Report

Recent UMD Graduates Job Placement Data & Employers

Here’s a sampling of positions Anthropology grads have attained six months to one year after graduation.

- Archaeology Field Technician - Duluth Archaeology Center, Duluth, MN
- Outdoor Education Instructor - Pali Institute, Running Springs, CA

For more data see the Anthropology Graduate Follow-Up Report.

For ideas about Anthropology and other majors visit Career & Internship Services.

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