

Department of Anthropology

Fact Sheet



What is humanity?

What is my place in society?

Where did we come from?

Why do cultures differ?

Our department goal is to engage UMass Boston students actively in the search for answers to these questions about themselves and the world in which they live. For anthropologists, human activities reflect the changing cultural, social, ecological, and historical contexts in which they live or have lived. We ask questions about why people do, think, remember, and believe what they do, and offer interpretations embracing cultural, biological, and historical frameworks. Anthropology helps students understand the cultural, political, environmental, and economic connections that link neighborhoods, cities, nations, and the global system. We seek to find order in and promote respect for the amazing diversity that characterizes people all over the globe and within our own society, both past and present. We try to understand how social and cultural environments "get under the skin" to affect health and well-being. Importantly, we do all of these with holistic, evolutionary, deeply historical, critical, cross-cultural, and community-based approaches – frequently via fieldwork and laboratory research – to offer students powerful resources for understanding (and acting on) current and historical trends that affect their workplaces, their communities, and the wider world.

This is why *you* should consider majoring, or double majoring, in Anthropology!

Combining **archaeology**, **cultural anthropology**, and **biological anthropology**, our research and teaching themes include: (1) cultural preservation and representation, (2) Indigenous people and the state, (3) urbanism, (4) transnationalism and immigration, (5) ethnicity and identity, (6) globalization and environment, (7) health disparities, and (8) human growth and development. We pursue these in a variety of places, including working with and on various communities (urban, rural, indigenous, immigrant, and refugee) in New England, the Caribbean, Latin America, Pacific Islands, East/Southeast Asia, and the North Atlantic. In this context, our students prepare for many career and graduate school options (*see other side*) with a wide range of marketable and useful skills.



Degrees Offered

Major: Anthropology

Minor: 1) Anthropology, 2) Environmental Anthropology, 3) Native American and Indigenous Studies

Learning Opportunities

Our faculty includes dedicated teachers who enjoy sharing their passion for anthropology with students inside and outside the classroom. In addition to a wide range of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and biological anthropology courses suited for our majors, many department course offerings are specifically designed to meet General Education requirements (e.g., International and US Diversity, World Cultures, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Natural Sciences). Our courses and our major pair well with other undergraduate programs on campus, such as History, American Studies, Criminal Justice, Sociology, Biology, Africana Studies, Latino Studies, Latin American and Iberian Studies, Environmental Studies, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. We also regularly offer summer archaeological field schools in New England and Belize, as well as research opportunities with faculty on-campus and internships off-campus.

Careers in Anthropology

What jobs do anthropologists find?

What can I do with an Anthropology degree?

Community development, as community organizers, community outreach workers and coordinators for community-based or grassroots initiatives.

Education, as teachers and administrators at the elementary, secondary, and collegiate level.

Environmental and cultural resource management, as guides, assistants, and researchers in the preservation of the environment, heritage, and the arts; and as consultants in ensuring compliance with both national law and local community desires in educating the public about sites and objects of historic, architectural, and archaeological interest.

Field archaeology, as field or laboratory technicians for private companies, public agencies, and universities in New England, throughout the United States, and in other countries.

Museums and heritage tourism, as researchers, curators, conservators, and guides at institutions such as the Boston Museum of Science, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, JFK Presidential Library and Museum, Plimoth Plantation, and Peabody Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology at Harvard.

Public health, as epidemiologists, health promoters, and researchers, whose training in biocultural processes, the body, and the health consequences of global phenomena such as war makes them uniquely qualified to study disease from biocultural perspectives and communicate information about disease prevention and management.

Public policy and law, as policy analysts, legislative assistants, attorneys, and coordinators of policy change interventions, especially on topics such as human rights, immigration, rights, research and biomedical ethics, and cultural property.

Journalism, as reporters, videographers, and writers for documentaries and publications such as *Cultural Survival Voices*, *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, *Boston Globe*, *Boston Parents Magazine*, and *Columbia Journalism Review*.

Social service and advocacy/justice, as youth workers, health educators, nurses, international relief specialists, and supporters of Cultural Survival and similar organizations.

Business administration and management, as operations managers, programmers, senior accountants, warehouse managers, senior test engineers, project managers, and hospital inventory controllers. Many of our graduates own and operate businesses, such as bookstores, internet commerce firms, sporting goods outlets, restaurants, and landscape design companies.

Graduate study, as alumni with master's or doctoral degrees in anthropology and other fields at 50+ universities, including UMass Boston, University of Chicago, Duke University, Syracuse University, Cornell University, Brown University, Yale University, Rutgers University, New York University, Boston University, UMass Amherst, Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Vermont, Brandeis University, University of Southern Maine, University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Irvine, Arizona State University, University of Illinois, New Mexico State University, Columbia University, and (in the U.K.), Bristol University and Sussex University.



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