

Anthropology, B.A.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Arts

Nature of the Program

Anthropology is a deeply comparative and participatory discipline that prepares students for meaningful life and work in our diverse and ever more interconnected world. The curriculum fosters an awareness of the structure and diversity of human societies, past and present, and offers a broad range of perspectives on the experiences and meanings of being human. Students are exposed to the methods of inquiry and to the special knowledge and insights of anthropology. Courses in the department also are intended to facilitate the application of anthropological principles to a wide range of contemporary social problems.

Anthropology graduates may pursue careers in nonprofit, public, or private sector fields. Majors are well-equipped for graduate training in the social sciences in pursuit of academic or applied research careers. For more information about this program, please visit the departmental website (<https://soca.wvu.edu/students/undergraduate-students/b-a-in-anthropology/>).

Students who earn a degree in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences must complete the University requirements, the College requirements for their specific degree program, and their major requirements.

Minors

All students have the possibility of earning one or more minors; view a list of all available minors and their requirements (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/minors/>) here. Please note that students may not earn a minor in their major field.

FACULTY

PROFESSOR AND CHAIR

- Daniel Renfrew - Ph.D. (Binghamton University) Anthropology
Environmental and political anthropology, Social movements, Latin American cultures

PROFESSORS

- Sharon R. Bird - Ph.D. (Washington State University) Sociology
Social Inequality (race/ethnicity/class/gender/LGBTQ+), Workplace equity, Research methods
- Henry H. Brownstein - Ph.D. (Temple University) Sociology
Distinguished Research Professor. Drugs and society, Drug policy, Violence, Qualitative research methods
- Katie E. Corcoran - Ph.D. (University of Washington) Sociology
Theory, Organizations, Culture, Criminology, Religion, Social networks
- Walter S. DeKeseredy - Ph.D. (York University) Sociology
Anna Deane Carlson Endowed Chair of Social Sciences. Violence against women, Critical criminology, Masculinities and crime, Criminology theory
- R. Gregory Dunaway - Ph.D. (University of Cincinnati) Sociology
Dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
- S. Melissa Latimer - Ph.D. (University of Kentucky) Sociology
Gender/race/ethnicity, Inequality/labor markets/welfare systems
- James Nolan, III - Ph.D. (Temple University) Sociology
Criminal justice, Group and social processes
- Jason Manning - Ph.D. (University of Virginia) Sociology
Conflict and social control, Violence, Sociology of knowledge
- Rachel Stein - Ph.D. (University of Akron) Sociology
Criminology, Victimization, Media and crime
- Karen Weiss - Ph.D. (SUNY-Stony Brook) Sociology
Criminology, Victimization, Gender/sexuality/culture
- Rachael A. Woldoff - Ph.D. (Ohio State University) Sociology
Community, Crime, Inequality/race/class
- Joshua Woods - Ph.D. (Michigan State University) Sociology
Social psychology, Media, Complex organizations, Sociology of risk

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Corey Colyer - Ph.D. (Syracuse University) Sociology
People processing systems, Agencies of social control
- Amy Hirshman - Ph.D. (Michigan State University) Anthropology
Mesoamerican archaeology, Social complexity, Ceramics
- Christopher P. Scheitle - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University) Sociology
Religion, Science in society, Crime, Organizations
- Jennifer Steele - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University) Rural Sociology
Natural resource sociology, Rural and community development
- Jesse Wozniak - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota) Sociology
Policing, Criminology, Deviance, State power

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Daniel Brewster - M.A. (West Virginia University) Communication Studies
Culture, Community
- Brandie S. Pugh - Ph.D. (University of Delaware) Sociology
Inequality, Corporate crime, Interpersonal violence, Philosophy of science
- Genesis Snyder - ABD (Binghamton University) Anthropology
General anthropology, Historical archaeology

TEACHING INSTRUCTORS

- Douglas Sahady - M.A. (California University of Pennsylvania) Social Science

PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Ronald C. Althouse - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota) Sociology
Theory, Work, Occupational safety and health
- Ann L. Paterson - Ph.D. (Michigan State University) Sociology
- Patricia C. Rice - M.A. (Ohio State University) Anthropology
- Joseph J. Simoni - Ph.D. (University of Notre Dame) Sociology
- William I. Torry - Ph.D. (Columbia University) Anthropology

Admissions for 2026-2027

- First Time Freshmen are admitted directly to the major.
- Students transferring from another WVU major, or from another institution with fewer than 24 credits, and at least a 2.0 overall GPA are admitted directly to the major.
- Students transferring from another WVU major, or from another institution with 24 hours or more, must have an overall GPA of a 2.0 and have completed ANTH 105 (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/search/?P=ANTH%20105>) with a grade of C- .

Major Code: 14C3

[Click here to view the Suggested Plan of Study \(p. 4\)](#)

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3

F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past	3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity	3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity	3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)	9
Total Hours	31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Departmental Requirements for the B.A. in Anthropology

Students must complete WVU General Education Foundations requirements, Eberly Edge Program requirements, major requirements, and electives to total a minimum of 120 hours.

- **Calculation of GPA in the Major:** A minimum GPA of a 2.0 is required in all courses applied to major requirements, with a minimum grade of C- required in SOC 101, ANTH 105, ANTH 259, ANTH 359. If a course is repeated, all attempts will be included in the calculation of the GPA, unless the course is eligible for a D/F repeat.
- **Writing Requirement:** Anthropology Bachelor of Arts students fulfill the Writing and Communication Skills requirement by completing ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 (or ENGL 103), and two SpeakWrite Certified Courses TM: ANTH 488, and either ANTH 259 or ANTH 359.
- **Capstone Requirement:** The General Education Foundation requires the successful completion of a Capstone course. Anthropology majors must complete ANTH 488 for 3 credits.
- **Experiential Learning:** Students interested in archaeological careers or graduate studies are encouraged to take Archaeological Field School (ANTH 357) through WVU or a transfer equivalent. Students interested in applied cultural anthropology careers or graduate studies are encouraged to consult with faculty about transient opportunities for Ethnographic Research Methods (ANTH 356). In addition, students are encouraged to do Independent Study (SOC 495), additional fieldwork, or an internship (SOC 491) in their junior or senior year, combining experiential work with previously acquired skills in a project appropriate to their career goals. SOC 490, SOC 491, and SOC 495 can be taken for variable credit and will count as general elective credits towards graduation, but they cannot be applied to major requirements.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	69
	Eberly Edge Requirements	15
	Anthropology Major Requirements	36
	Total Hours	120

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)	
	Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 5, and 8	27
SOC 191	First-Year Seminar	1
	General Electives	41
	Total Hours	69

Eberly Edge Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	EDG 1: Data and Society	3
	EDG 2: Effective and Civil Communication	3
	EDG 3: Ethics and Civil Responsibility	3
	EDG 4: Global and Regional Perspectives (ANTH 105)	
	EDG 5: Practicing Arts & Sciences (ARSC 380)	3
	EDG 6: High Impact Experience	3
	Total Hours	15

Anthropology Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
CORE REQUIREMENTS:		12
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology	
ANTH 105	Introduction to Anthropology	
ANTH 259	The Craft of Anthropology	
ANTH 359	Anthropological Thought	
SUBFIELD REQUIREMENTS:		6
Select two of the following:		
ANTH 252	Biological Anthropology	
ANTH 254	Cultural Anthropology	
ANTH 258	Introduction to Archaeology	
SUBFIELD ENRICHMENT REQUIREMENTS:		3
Select one of the following:		
STAT 111	Understanding Statistics	
STAT 211	Elementary Statistical Inference	
ENGL 221	The English Language	
UPPER-DIVISION ANTHROPOLOGY REQUIREMENTS		12
Select four of the following:		
ANTH 349	Human Osteology	
ANTH 350	Latin American Culture	
ANTH 352	Historical Archaeology	
ANTH 354	Mesoamerican Archaeology	
ANTH 355	Cultural Resource Management	
ANTH 356	Ethnographic Field Methods	
ANTH 357	Archaeological Field School	
ANTH 358	Anthropology of Health and Illness	
ANTH 450	Archaeology of Ancient States	
ANTH 451	Material Culture	
ANTH 457	Social Movements	
ANTH 458	Environmental Anthropology	
CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE		3
ANTH 488	The Capstone Experience	
Total Hours		36

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
SOC 191		1 ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3
ANTH 105 (EDG 4 & F7)		3 SOC 101 (GEF 4)	3
Subfield Enrichment Requirement		3 EDG 2: Effective and Civil Communication	3
EDG 1: Data and Society		3 F2A	3
F5		3 F6	3
General Elective		2	
		15	15

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)		3 ANTH 259	3
Subfield Requirement Course 1		3 Subfield Requirement Course 2	3
EDG 3: Ethics and Civil Responsibility		3 F8 Course 2*	3
F2A		3 General Elective	3

F8 Course 1*		3 General Elective	3
		15	15
Third Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
GEF 8*		3 ANTH 359	3
Subfield Enrichment Course		3 Upper-level Anthropology Course 2	3
Upper-level Anthropology Course 1		3 ARSC 380 (EDG 5)	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15
Fourth Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Upper-level Anthropology Course 3		3 ANTH 488	3
General Elective		3 Upper-level Anthropology Course 4	3
General Elective		3 EDG 6: High Impact Experience	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Total credit hours: 120

*

Students completing a minor, a double major or a dual degree already fulfill F 8.

Degree Progress

Students are expected to meet the benchmarks set below.

- Complete SOC 101 and ANTH 105 with grades of C- or higher by the end of the second semester in the program;
- Complete ANTH 259 and two additional 200-level anthropology courses by the end of the fourth semester in the program;
- Complete ANTH 359, one 300 or 400-level anthropology course and either STAT 111, STAT 211, ENGL 221, or LING 311 by the end of the sixth semester in the program.
- Maintain a GPA of 2.0 overall and a minimum GPA of 2.0 in all SOCA courses counting toward major requirements.
- All majors must meet with their adviser every semester.

Students who do not meet these benchmarks may be removed from their major.

Major Learning Outcomes

ANTHROPOLOGY

Students graduating with a BA in Anthropology will be able to:

1. Describe anthropology's core theoretical perspectives, its distinctive history, and its unique breadth and range as a discipline.
2. Interpret past and present human life-ways holistically and comparatively.
3. Discuss the importance of knowledge and understanding of a culturally and biologically diverse world.
4. Differentiate between the multiple methods employed by anthropologists across its subfields.
5. Apply ethical principles to the conduct of anthropological research and the applications of its findings.
6. Critically analyze anthropological questions and issues by retrieving and synthesizing appropriate information and evidence and identifying implications for research and practice/policy.
7. Demonstrate effective, clear and persuasive communication skills according to disciplinary conventions.