Anthropology is the study of human beings and human societies, and human diversity, history and origins. It adopts a cross-cultural and holistic orientation and provides a perspective for recognizing and understanding the interrelationships among the economic and social organizations, political structure, religious and medical beliefs, world view, ethical systems, and personality dispositions and biological diversity in society.

As an anthropology student at Wichita State University, you will have access to the department’s Lowell D. Holmes Museum of Anthropology and the library and student reading facility. You will also be able to use research laboratories in archaeology and biological anthropology (including, but not limited to Mesoamerica, North America, Great Plains, human osteology and zoo archaeology). Biological Anthropology facilities also include “Skeleton Acres,” an 8-acre research facility for forensic anthropological research and studies. As a student, you will also engage in archaeological, biological and cultural/ethnographic field studies, and lithic and ceramic, human osteological, and faunal laboratory studies.

The department provides students with opportunities to learn and apply GIS to research in data collection, management, mapping and interpretation in all areas of the discipline. You may also earn an opportunity to participate in faculty research projects in all branches of the discipline. As an anthropology major, you may obtain pre-professional training in various programs through Wichita State University’s Cooperative Education and Work-Based Learning program, and you may participate in certification programs on forensic criminology and Great Plains studies.

Graduates of WSU’s anthropology program have a great placement record. Graduates find government jobs in public health, social services, foreign service, Native American affairs, archaeological research, environmental protection, museums and crime scene investigation. Graduates with combined degrees in anthropology and teacher education may find jobs in the private and public schools. In addition, graduates find careers in international business, personnel management, cultural resource management, environmental impact research and in various technical fields related to anthropology. A growing number of medical and law schools recognize the value of anthropological training as a background for professional training.

WSU’s anthropology program offers opportunities and courses leading to bachelor’s and master’s degrees with varied concentrations within the discipline:

- **General anthropology** provides an overview of the discipline, often as preparation for graduate study.
- **Archaeology** concentrates on the study of the prehistory of all world cultures with a focus on Mesoamerica, North America and the Great Plains regions.
- **Biological anthropology** addresses scientific investigation, human biological variation, genetics, osteology, skeletal biology, human origin and evolution, and nonhuman primates.
- **Cultural anthropology** focuses on societies around the world, including ethnic minorities in American society.
- **Forensic anthropology** emphasizes research and applicational human skeletal variation to the identification of human skeletal remains in medicolegal investigation.
- **Medical anthropology** examines the relationship between culture and health and illness, and on delivery of health care across cultural and ethnic boundaries.
- **The program also provides courses training students in the preparation and maintenance of museum collections and the development of museum exhibitions.**

**Admission**

When you choose to study anthropology, you will be admitted to the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. You will be assigned a faculty advisor in the anthropology department who will help you develop your program of study.

If you are still deciding on a major when you start at Wichita State, the Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising Center can help you explore career and major options.
Related Opportunities
As an anthropology student, you may participate in the Anthropology Club or the Archaeological Association of South Central Kansas. You should contact the department to find out if you are eligible to join the founding chapter of national anthropology honors society, Lambda Alpha, and discuss with the organization’s faculty adviser your possible participation in the production of a national student journal. You also may qualify to work in the Lowell D. Holmes Museum of Anthropology and in the various research laboratories. You may also participate in local and regional professional meetings such as the annual Lambda Alpha Honors Society student symposium, the Midwest Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology conference, the conferences of the Central States Anthropological Society and the Plains Anthropological Society, and the Pecos and the Flint Hills conferences. If eligible, you may be selected for university academic honor societies such as Phi Kappa Phi and Mortar Board.

General Education Program Requirements
What is the overall goal?
The goal of general education is to enable you to live a rich, meaningful life by developing: an informed appreciation of the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences; an ability to intelligently follow and participate in current events; and a sensitive and tutored appreciation of diverse cultures and ways of living.

What are the expected outcomes?
Embedded throughout general education and furthered in the major are the skills that enable graduates to contribute productively to society and the on-going culture. Therefore, upon graduation the faculty expects you to:

- Have acquired knowledge in the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences
- Think critically and independently
- Write and speak effectively
- Employ analytical reasoning and problem solving techniques

Major Requirements
Students must complete successfully: Anthr 101 (3), 102 (3), 103 (3) and 647 (3) = 12 credits. Student must successfully complete at least one course (3) from each category (A, B, and C) = nine credits:

A: Archaeology
- Anthr 305 World Archaeology
- Anthr 313 Archaeology of East Asia
- Anthr 335 Archaeology of North America
- Anthr 508 Ancient Civilization of the Americas
- Anthr 538 Early Man in the New World
- Anthr 611 Southwestern Archaeology
- Anthr 612 Indians of the Great Plains
- Anthr 613 Archaeology of the Great Plains

B: Biological Anthropology
- Anthr 356 Human Variation and Adaptation
- Anthr 555 Paleoanthropology
- Anthr 557 Human Osteology
- Anthr 597R Dental Anthropology
- Anthr 600 Forensic Anthropology

C: Cultural Anthropology
- Anthr 303 World Culture
- Anthr 307 Peoples of Africa
- Anthr 312 Asia Pacific Cultures
- Anthr 318 Psychological Anthropology
- Anthr 327 Magic, Witchcraft and Religion
- Anthr 344 Ecological Anthropology
- Anthr 388 Cognitive Anthropology
- Anthr 506 Peoples of the Pacific
- Anthr 511 Indians of North America
- Anthr 515 China
- Anthr 516 Japan
- Anthr 522 Art and Culture
- Anthr 526 Medical Anthropology
- Anthr 528 The Indians of the United States
- Anthr 540 Gender and Culture
- Anthr 542 Women in Other Cultures

Students need an additional nine credits from the anthropology courses listed in the undergraduate catalog to complete the major. Departmental consent is required to award credit toward the anthropology degree from a list of approved courses from related departments such as biological sciences, geology, history, religion, and art history.

*Some of the courses listed in Major Requirements will count toward the LAS General Education Requirements.

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For more information on Anthropology at WSU visit wichita.edu/anthropology or call (316) 978-3195.