Anthropology is the study of human-kind and human societies, human diversity, history and origins. Anthropology is both cross-cultural and holistic in orientation as it explores human culture and biology, past and present. The outcome of archaeological, biological, cultural and museum studies within anthropology provides students with a perspective that recognizes and seeks to understand interrelationships among past and present economic and social organizations, political structures, religious and medical beliefs, world views, ethical systems, personality dispositions, the effects of aging, human variation, anatomy, skeletal biology, and further 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 American Great Plains, human osteology and zoo archaeology). Biological Anthropology facilities also include “Skeleton Acres,” an 8-acre research facility for forensic anthropological research, crime scene recovery, and other experimental exercises. As a student, you will also engage in archaeological, biological and cultural or ethnographic field studies, lithic and ancient technology workshops, human osteological, forensic anthropological, and faunal laboratory studies, and culture-historical and archival investigations in historical cemetery investigations.

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 Asian studies, forensic investigation, Great Plains studies and Museum 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, North America and the Great and Southern Plains regions.
- Biological anthropology addresses forensic investigation, human biological variation, genetics, osteology, skeletal biology, human origin and evolution, and nonhuman primate behavior
- Cultural anthropology focuses on societies around the world, including ethnic minorities in American society
- Forensic anthropology emphasizes the study of human skeletal variation and its application to the identification of human skeletal remains in medico-legal investigation
- Medical anthropology examines the relationship between culture and health, aging 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 and 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 advisor 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. As an anthropology major, you are eligible to apply for one of five undergraduate Jackman scholarships. Applications should be made through the College of LAS from where they will be forwarded to the department. 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

Well-Rounded Learning

Wichita State strives to offer the most complete college experience possible to produce well-rounded, successful Shocker graduates. Through general education courses, students explore subjects outside of their major, expanding their knowledge, perspective and skills and making a positive impact on their career and life.

Benefits of general education courses:
• Improved critical thinking skills
• Better communication, written and spoken
• Increased analytical reasoning and problem solving
• An acquired knowledge of natural and social science, the arts and humanities

Improve skills by taking courses that include diversity content, study abroad experiences, service learning and experience-based learning.

KSDegreeStats.org

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