

Anthropology

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, College of Arts and Sciences



Program of Study

Anthropologists are responsible for popularizing the concept of culture by emphasizing a holistic understanding of the connectivity between gender, religion, ethnicity, nationality and economics. Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology will be encouraged to see the world as the sum of its biological, linguistic, social and cultural parts. No other university in the state of Illinois currently offers a concentration in environmental issues in anthropology at the undergraduate level.

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology is offered through the WIU Department of Sociology and Anthropology. As an anthropology major, students are required to complete two introductory-level anthropology courses, in addition to one of four methodology courses; a course covering trends in anthropological theory; one of several courses focusing on world cultures and one linguistic anthropology course, which investigates the role of language in human communities. In the junior and senior years, students may choose courses to focus on one or more fields of anthropology, including cultural, linguistic, biological anthropology and archaeology. Online class options are available for many courses. Major advisors will assist students in selecting courses to best reach specific career goals.

A minor in anthropology complements a wide variety of professional careers in the U.S. and abroad. Anthropology provides learning opportunities to gain skills needed for careers in museums, international development, forensic anthropology, medicine, cultural resource management, archaeology, human ecology, environmental sciences, national and international corporate management, health and human rights advocacy, public service and academia. WIU graduates are admitted to top-tier PhD programs in anthropology and related fields. A minimum of 18 semester hours in anthropology, including the two introductory courses, is required for the minor. Your minor advisor will help you select courses to best complement your major field of study.

Faculty

Our faculty members come from diverse academic, social and ethnic backgrounds and represent superior professional experience in teaching and research. Each are nationally and internationally recognized scholars who publish in peer-reviewed research publications and journals. Members of the faculty have been recipients of significant grants, including the National Science Foundation. Students routinely work alongside faculty members on ground-breaking research in archaeology, sociocultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology and biological anthropology.

Scholarships

Detailed information on scholarships is available from the department advising office, (309) 298-2189; Western's Scholarship Office, (309) 298-2001; or on the web at wiu.edu/Scholarship.

Honors College Admission Requirements

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT score of at least 28 or have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15 percent of their graduating class; or have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. A comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honors Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale based upon 12 semester hours. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To learn more, visit wiu.edu/Honors.

Student Activities

Anthropology majors and minors are active in the Western Anthropology and Sociology Club (WASC), which sponsors several activities throughout the academic year. In addition to inviting guest speakers for campus programs, WASC organizes events such as career, résumé and internship workshops; topical events relating to sociology and anthropology and social events.

Special Opportunities

Anthropology faculty at WIU have extensive field research experience in North, Central and Latin America, Europe, South Asia, southern Africa and the Middle East. Short-term study abroad courses to Germany, Puerto Rico and India are offered regularly. Undergraduate research opportunities are available every spring and fall semester in all four fields. WIU has developed relationships with regional institutions, including the Field Museum of Natural History, the Dickson Mounds Museum, the Henson Robinson Zoo (Springfield, IL) and the Niabi Zoo (Moline, IL).



After College

WIU students are uniquely prepared to apply their understanding of human relationships to a variety of fields, including medicine and health care, law and law enforcement, international relations, ecology, conservation, community planning, politics, marketing and business, social work and human relations. In a time when new employees are expected to have an extensive skill set in many careers, anthropology is an ideal primary or secondary major for WIU students.

For More Information

Call the WIU Department of Sociology and Anthropology at (309) 298-1056 or email the advisor at Heissinger@wiu.edu. For more information, visit wiu.edu/cas/sociology/anthro.

General Outlook

In addition to completion of the University General Education and College of Arts and Sciences curriculum requirements, anthropology majors are required to complete four core courses, two courses in the directed electives, plus 15 semester hours of anthropology electives. A total of 33 semester hours are required for a major in anthropology. Like all Western programs, studies in anthropology build upon the general education courses students take during freshman and sophomore years.

*Sample Course Planning for Anthropology Major (*indicates core course; **indicated directed elective)*

- Semester 1: Intro to Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 110*), Intro to Archaeology and Physical Anthropology (ANTH 111*)
- Semester 2: World Culture Regions (ANTH 201**) or Native North American Cultures (ANTH 249**)
- Semester 3: Anthropology elective, Language and Culture (ANTH 380*) or Sociolinguistics (EIS 440*)
- Semester 4: Applied Anthropological Methods (ANTH 305**), Laboratory Analysis of Archaeological Material (ANTH 325**), Archaeological Field Methods (ANTH 326**) or Methods in Physical Anthropology (ANTH 310**)
- Semester 5: Anthropological Theory (ANTH 419G*)
- Semesters 6-8: Anthropology electives

wiu.edu/cas/sociology

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