

# ANTHROPOLOGY, BA

Anthropology is the comparative study of human diversity through time and across the world. Its scope spans the humanities, the social sciences, and the biological, physical, and evolutionary sciences. As a history of the human species, anthropology studies all human biological and behavioral variation, including nonhuman primates, from the earliest fossil records to the present. Anthropology uncovers the patterns of past and present societies and seeks to understand the ways cultural meaning and political power have shaped human experience.

At the University of Wisconsin–Madison, anthropology consists of three subfields:

- archaeology – the investigation and analysis of the remains from past cultures, uncovered through excavation;
- biological anthropology – the study of human evolution and the roots of the biological and genetic diversity found among contemporary peoples; and
- sociocultural anthropology – the comparative study of society, politics, economy, and culture, whether in historical times or today.

Students can also take classes in anthropological linguistics, the analysis of language and its place in social life. Comparative and empirical work—and fieldwork in particular—are the hallmarks of anthropology on this campus.

## HOW TO GET IN

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Requirements	Details
How to get in	No application required. All students who meet the requirements listed below are eligible to declare. For information on how to declare, visit Advising & Careers.
Courses required to get in	None
GPA requirements to get in	None
Credits required to get in	None
Other	None

## REQUIREMENTS

### UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students must complete both the following Core General Education (Core GenEd) and University Degree and Quality of Work requirements. The requirements below apply to students whose first term at UW–Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution is Summer 2026 or later.

Students whose first term at UW–Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution occurred before Summer 2026 should refer to the archived Guide (<https://guide.wisc.edu/archive/>) for the requirements that apply to them.

### CORE GENERAL EDUCATION (CORE GENED) REQUIREMENTS

Civics & Perspectives	3 credits of Civics & Perspectives coursework.
Communication & Literacy	6 credits of Communication & Literacy coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <a href="https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement">https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement</a> ( <a href="https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement/">https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement/</a> )
Humanities & Arts	6 credits of Humanities & Arts coursework.
Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning	6 credits of Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <a href="https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement">https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement</a> ( <a href="https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement/">https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement/</a> )
Natural Science & Wellness	Complete both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 credits of Natural Science &amp; Wellness or Natural Science &amp; Wellness + Laboratory coursework.</li> <li>• one course must be in Natural Science &amp; Wellness + Laboratory coursework.</li> </ul>
Social & Behavioral Science	3 credits of Social & Behavioral Science coursework.
Total Credits	30 credits.

For more information see the policy (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1095/>).

### UNIVERSITY DEGREE AND QUALITY OF WORK REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate degree recipients must complete the following minimum requirements. Requirements for some programs will exceed these requirements; see program requirements for additional information.

Total Degree	120 degree credits.
Residency	Complete 30 credits in residence. A course is considered “in residence” if it is taken when in undergraduate degree-seeking status and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is offered by UW–Madison and completed on the UW–Madison campus or at an approved off-site location, or</li> <li>• is offered by UW–Madison in an online or distance format, or is completed during participation in a UW–Madison study abroad/study away program.</li> </ul>
Quality of Work	Achieve at least the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, and/or academic program.
Math	Demonstrate minimal mathematics competence by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• placing above MATH#160;96, or</li> <li>• successfully completing MATH#160;96, or</li> <li>• successfully completing a more advanced mathematics course such as MATH#160;112, MATH#160;113, MATH#160;114, MATH#160;141, MATH#160;211, or MATH#160;221.</li> </ul>

English Language If required to take the UW-Madison English as a Second Language Assessment Test (MSN-ESLAT), demonstrate minimal English language competence by:

- earning credit for ESL#160;118, or
- achieving a qualifying MSN-ESLAT placement test score.

Language Complete one:

- 2 high school units of a single language other than English, or
- one course with the second semester Language designation.

Major Declaration Declare and complete the requirements for at least one major.

## COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. Some courses satisfy more than one L&S degree requirement (visit College of Letters & Science: Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/#requirementstext>) for details).

This major can be paired with either the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree requirements.

### BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Communication Complete both:

- Part A: one course with the Communication A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and
- Part B: one course with the Communication B designation

Quantitative Reasoning Complete both:

- Part A: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and
- Part B: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning B designation

Ethnic Studies one 3+ credit course with the Ethnic Studies designation

Language Complete either:

- the fourth unit of one language other than English; or
- the third unit of one language other than English and the second unit of an additional language.

L&S Breadth: Humanities Complete 12 credits with the Humanities or Literature designation, which must include at least 6 credits with the Literature designation.

L&S Breadth: Social Sciences Complete 12 credits with the Social Science designation.

L&S Breadth: Natural Sciences Complete 12 credits with the Natural Science, Biological Science, or Physical Science designations, which must include both:

- one 3+ credit course with the Biological Science designation, and
- one 3+ credit course with the Physical Science designation.

Liberal Arts and Science (LAS) Coursework at least 108 credits

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work at least 60 credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level

Major Declare and complete at least one major.

Total Credits at least 120 credits

UW-Madison Experience

- 30 credits in residence, overall; and
- 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit

Quality of Work

- 2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison
- 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison

### NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their School/College to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

An undergraduate major in Anthropology consists of a minimum of 30 credits distributed within the department, with 15 credits coming from required coursework as follows:

Code	Title	Credits
ANTHRO 105	Principles of Biological Anthropology	3
ANTHRO 300	Cultural Anthropology: Theory and Ethnography	3
<b>Complete two:</b>		<b>6</b>
ANTHRO 212	Principles of Archaeology	
ANTHRO 321	The Emergence of Human Culture	
ANTHRO 322	The Origins of Civilization	
<b>Capstone Seminar:</b>		<b>3</b>
ANTHRO 490	Undergraduate Seminar	
<b>ANTHRO electives</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

## RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all ANTHRO and major courses
- 2.000 GPA in 15 upper-level major credits in residence<sup>1</sup>
- 15 credits in ANTHRO, taken on campus

<sup>1</sup> ANTHRO 300 and above are upper-level, with the exception of Quechua and Yucatec Maya language courses (ANTHRO/LACIS 361, ANTHRO/LACIS 362, ANTHRO/LACIS 363, ANTHRO/LACIS 364, ANTHRO/LACIS 376, ANTHRO/LACIS 377).

## HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Major in consultation with the Anthropology major advisor.

### HONORS IN THE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major, students must satisfy both the requirements for the Anthropology major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Complete 3 credits in honors courses in each section of anthropology (biological, archaeological, and cultural)
- Complete an additional 490 seminar (different topic) or one seminar at the 600 level (with consent of instructor and advisor)
- Complete a Senior Honors Thesis (681/682)
- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.300 GPA for all ANTHRO and major courses

Below is a list of course options by section:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Biological Anthropology (complete one):</b>		<b>3</b>
ANTHRO 105	Principles of Biological Anthropology	
ANTHRO 302	Hominoid Evolution	
ANTHRO 303	Human Skeletal Anatomy	
ANTHRO 304	Heredity, Environment and Human Populations	
ANTHRO/ BOTANY/ ZOOLOGY 410	Evolutionary Biology	
ANTHRO 411	The Evolution of the Genus, Homo	
ANTHRO 420	Introduction to Primatological Research	
ANTHRO 454	Study Abroad: Topics in Biological Anthropology	
ANTHRO 458	Primate Behavioral Ecology	
ANTHRO 603	Seminar in Evolutionary Theory	
ANTHRO 605	Seminar-Current Problems in Paleoanthropology	
ANTHRO/ PSYCH/ ZOOLOGY 619	Biology of Mind	
ANTHRO 668	Primate Conservation	
<b>Cultural Anthropology (complete one):</b>		<b>3</b>

ANTHRO 104	Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity
ANTHRO/ FOLKLORE/ INTL ST/ LINGUIS 211	Global Language Issues
ANTHRO/ MED HIST 231	Introduction to Social Medicine
ANTHRO 237	Cut 'n' Mix: Music, Race, and Culture in the Caribbean
ANTHRO/ AFROAMER/ C&E SOC/GEOG/ HISTORY/LACIS/ POLI SCI/SOC/ SPANISH 260	Latin America: An Introduction
ANTHRO 265	Introduction to Culture and Health
ANTHRO/ AFRICAN/ AFROAMER/ GEOG/HISTORY/ POLI SCI/ SOC 277	Africa: An Introductory Survey
ANTHRO 300	Cultural Anthropology: Theory and Ethnography
ANTHRO/ AMER IND 314	Indians of North America
ANTHRO 340	Music, Race, And Culture in Brazil
ANTHRO/ RELIG ST 343	Anthropology of Religion
ANTHRO 345	Family, Kin and Community in Anthropological Perspective
ANTHRO 348	Economic Anthropology
ANTHRO 357	Introduction to the Anthropology of Japan
ANTHRO/ LACIS 361	Elementary Quechua
ANTHRO/ LACIS 362	Elementary Quechua
ANTHRO/ LACIS 363	Intermediate Quechua
ANTHRO/ LACIS 364	Advanced Quechua
ANTHRO 365	Medical Anthropology
ANTHRO/ LACIS 376	First Semester Yucatec Maya
ANTHRO/ LACIS 377	Second Semester Yucatec Maya
ANTHRO 424	Historical Anthropology
ANTHRO/ AMER IND/ FOLKLORE/ GEN&WS 437	American Indian Women
ANTHRO/ GEN&WS 443	Anthropology by Women
ANTHRO 455	Study Abroad: Topics in Cultural Anthropology

ANTHRO 456	Symbolic Anthropology	
ANTHRO/ AMER IND/ BOTANY 474	Ethnobotany	
ANTHRO 477	Anthropology, Environment, and Development	
ANTHRO 545	Psychological Anthropology	
ANTHRO/ ED POL 570	Anthropology and Education	
LINGUIS 101	Human Language	
<b>Archaeological Anthropology (complete one):</b>		<b>3</b>
ANTHRO 102	Archaeology and the Prehistoric World	
ANTHRO 212	Principles of Archaeology	
ANTHRO/ ART HIST/ DS/HISTORY/ LAND ARC 264	Dimensions of Material Culture	
ANTHRO 310	Topics in Archaeology	
ANTHRO 321	The Emergence of Human Culture	
ANTHRO 322	The Origins of Civilization	
ANTHRO 333	Prehistory of Africa	
ANTHRO 337	Lithics and Archaeology	
ANTHRO 352	Ancient Technology and Invention	
ANTHRO/ AMER IND 354	Archaeology of Wisconsin	
ANTHRO 370	Field Course in Archaeology	
ANTHRO 391	Bones for the Archaeologist	
ANTHRO 453	Study Abroad: Topics in Archaeology	
ANTHRO/ AMER IND/ BOTANY 474	Ethnobotany	
ANTHRO 696	Archaeological Methods of Curation	
<b>A seminar chosen from:</b>		<b>3</b>
ANTHRO 490	Undergraduate Seminar	
ANTHRO 603	Seminar in Evolutionary Theory	
ANTHRO 605	Seminar-Current Problems in Paleoanthropology	
ANTHRO 690	Problems in Anthropology	
<b>Senior Honors Thesis:</b>		
ANTHRO 681 & ANTHRO 682	Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis	6
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>18</b>

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Acquire specialized training in anthropological research.
2. Obtain comparative global knowledge of human diversity, material culture, culture history, and the evolution of people's relationships with the physical, cultural, and natural world.
3. Gain an awareness of ethnographic, archaeological and bio# anthropological ethics practice and research.

4. Distinguish between empirical and speculative narratives and claims about human diversity past and present.

## FOUR-YEAR PLAN

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This Four-Year Plan is only one way a student may complete an L&S degree with this major. Many factors can affect student degree planning, including placement scores, credit for transferred courses, credits earned by examination, and individual scholarly interests. In addition, many students have commitments (e.g., athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, work and volunteer experiences) that necessitate they adjust their plans accordingly. Informed students engage in their own unique Wisconsin Experience by consulting their academic advisors, Guide, DARS, and Course Search & Enroll for assistance making and adjusting their plan.

#### First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ANTHRO 100-200 level course	3 ANTHRO 100-200 level course	3
Science Breadth	3 Ethnic Studies course in ANTHRO	3
Communication A	3 Literature Breadth	3
Quantitative Reasoning A	3 Physical Science Breadth	3
Language (if needed)	4 Language (if needed)	4
<b>16</b>		<b>16</b>

#### Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ANTHRO 200-300 level course	3 Communication B	3-4
Quantitative Reasoning B	4 ANTHRO 200-300 level course	3
Literature Breadth	3 Science Breadth	3
Elective	4 I/A COMP SCI, MATH, or STAT (if BS)	3
INTER-LS 210	1 Elective	3
<b>15</b>		<b>16</b>

#### Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Declare the Major	ANTHRO 300-600 level elective	3
ANTHRO 300-600 level elective	3 ANTHRO 300-600 level elective	3
Humanities Breadth	3 Humanities Breadth	3
I/A COMP SCI, MATH, or STAT (if BS)	3 Electives	5
Elective	4	
<b>13</b>		<b>14</b>

#### Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ANTHRO 490	3 ANTHRO 300-600 level elective	3

Electives	12 Electives	12
	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>

**Total Credits 120**

## ADVISING AND CAREERS

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#### DECLARE OR CANCEL THIS MAJOR

Please follow the process described on the Anthropology website (<https://www.anthropology.wisc.edu/undergraduate-study/>).

#### STUDY ABROAD

Learning in Letters & Science emphasizes discovery, growth, understanding different perspectives, and challenging yourself, which makes studying abroad an excellent fit for many L&S students: [studyabroad.wisc.edu](https://studyabroad.wisc.edu) (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/>)

As a university with global influence, we have more than 300 study abroad programs (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/programs/>) in over 80 countries. These vary in length, academic focus, teaching format, language requirements, cost, and level of independence. There are many programs to complement every major (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/academics/major-advising-pages-maps/#L&S>) and any year of college (including the final semester)—and all meet UW–Madison’s high academic standards. Students admitted into Letters & Science can even choose a short program in the summer before they start college or their whole first year: [studyabroad.wisc.edu/launch](https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/launch) (<http://studyabroad.wisc.edu/launch/>). Talk with your academic advisor about how studying abroad might fit with your academic plan.

#### SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience, and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try “Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them,” (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW–Madison students