Most professional anthropological jobs require a graduate degree. Those interested in anthropology may specialize in one of its four branches: archaeology, cultural anthropology, linguistics, or physical anthropology. Many subfields exist within these specialties such as forensic anthropology, a subfield of physical anthropology. Typically students take a general curriculum as an undergraduate and specialize through graduate studies.

Ample preparation is advised as graduate school admissions are increasingly competitive. Those interested in archaeological may look for specialized field work within specific subgroups. These subgroups are divided by time periods and historicity; they include: environmental, ethnoarchaeology, landscape, household, marine, aviation, aerial, battlefield, commercial, industrial, salvage, experimental, forensic, and historic. As the demand for university college faculty positions decreases, most openings will exist in consulting firms and government agencies. To increase your employment opportunities with a bachelor’s degree, consider minor or double majoring in another field such as sociology, business, urban planning, or public administration.

Pursue research experience by working on faculty projects through independent study classes, as a student employee, or through other departmental programs. Gaining relevant work experience through internships, summer jobs, or volunteer positions is critical. Join professional associations such as the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Forensic anthropology has become increasingly popular as well as competitive. Career opportunities exist within the national network of state and county medical examiners and coroners. Training at the graduate level should include supplemental work in legal evidence, pathology, criminology, or forensic lab methods along with supervised casework.

### AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- Teaching
- Research
- Administration
- Library/Information Science
- Community education
- Higher education
- Volunteer coordination
- Cultural resource management
- Research
- Excavation
- Field work
- Museum conservation
- Legislative compliance review

### COMMON EMPLOYERS

- Natural history or history museums
- Historical homes
- Art galleries
- Libraries
- Special collections
- Historical societies
- Universities and colleges
- State and local government
- Federal government: National Archives and Records Administration
- Corporations
- Non-profit organizations
- Research institutes
- Consulting firms
- Environmental/Engineering companies

### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Academy of Forensic Science
- American Anthropological Association
- American Association of Physical Anthropologists
- International Society of Appraisers
- American Association for the Practice of Anthropology
- National Association of Student Anthropologists
- Society for American Archaeology
- Society for Historical Archaeology

### STRATEGIES ON ENTERING THE FIELD

- Earn a Ph.D. in Anthropology for university and college faculty positions or a M.A./M.S. for community college positions.
- Earn a graduate degree in College Student Affairs, Library/Information Science or related field for work in student affairs, administration, or libraries.
- Gain research experience by assisting professors or participating in independent studies.
- Maintain a high GPA and develop strong personal recommendations.
- Develop excellent communication and presentation skills.
- Get involved with campus or community museums.
- Learn about grant writing, budgeting, and legal issues surrounding historical artifacts.
- Join professional associations to have access to industry news and job information.
- Attend relevant conferences, seminars, and trainings.

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