

# Career

# Paths

## ANTHROPOLOGY

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 the larger 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 Archeological may look for specialized field work within specific subgroups. These subgroups are divided by time periods and historicity; they include: environmental, ethnoarcheology, 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 minoring 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 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.

### Education

**Example Career Paths:** Teaching | Research | Administration | Library/Information science | Community education | Higher education

**Potential Employers:** Universities/Colleges/Community colleges | University research institutes or laboratories | Campus museums | Zoos | Nature centers

**Professional Associations:** [National Association of Student Anthropologists](#)

## Museums and Archives

**Example Career Paths:** Functions – curation, acquisition, preservation/conservation/restoration, arrangement, cataloguing/categorizing, exhibition/installation, describing, analyzing, authenticating, maintaining records, research, education, development

**Potential 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 | Nonprofit organizations | Research institutions

**Professional Associations:** [Society for Historical Archeology](#)

## Archaeology

**Example Career Paths:** Cultural resource management | Research | Excavation | Field work

**Potential Employers:** Consulting firms | Environmental/Engineering companies | Firms specializing in archaeological investigation | Historic preservation societies | Government

**Professional Associations:** [American Academy of Forensic Science](#) | [American Anthropological Association](#) | [American Association of Physical Anthropologists](#)

## Government

**Example Career Paths:** Administration | Cultural resource management | Surveying | Site management | Excavation | Research | Museum conservation | Legislative compliance review | Program management and evaluation | Impact assessment | Policy analysis | Urban planning | Translation/Interpretation | Immigration | Epidemiology

**Potential Employers:** Federal agencies | Departments of Conservation, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Natural Resources | State agencies

**Professional Associations:** [Society for American Archaeology](#)

## Nonprofit

**Example Career Paths:** Administration | Program management and development | Fundraising/Development | Grant writing | Research | Policy analysis | Service delivery | Volunteer coordination | Community education | Public relations and marketing

**Potential Employers:** Nonprofit organizations | Social service agencies | Hospitals and medical centers | Private foundations | International organizations | World Health Organization | Trade or professional associations | Libraries | Educational institutions

**Professional Associations:** [Society for Applied Anthropology](#) | [American Anthropological Association](#) | [National Association for the Practice of Anthropology](#)

## Business

**Example Career Paths:** Sales | Customer service | Public relations | Marketing | Management | Human resources | Insurance | Real estate

**Potential Employers:** Service providers | Wholesalers | Manufacturers | Retail stores | Call centers | Financial institutions | Insurance companies | Real estate companies | Property management firms | Apartment complexes | Public relations departments of large companies or nonprofit organizations

**Professional Associations:** [International Society of Appraisers](#)

## Communications

**Example Career Paths:** Documentary film production | Photography/Photojournalism | Journalism | Writing/Editing | Publishing

**Potential Employers:** Colleges and universities | Government agencies | Government or private museums | Local historical societies or sites | Television and motion picture industry | Internet media companies | Independent production companies | Publishing houses | Newspapers and magazines | Freelance/Self-employed

**Professional Associations:** [Society for Linguistic Anthropology](#)

## Preparing for your Career

- Earn a Ph.D. in Anthropology for university and college faculty positions or an 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 in campus leadership positions such as Resident Assistant, Peer Advisor, or Admissions Tour Guide.
- Acquire strong computer knowledge and experience.
- Obtain an internship in a related organization.
- Volunteer at campus or community museums.
- Get involved with relevant student organizations.
- Develop excellent written and oral communication skills, organizational skills, and an attention to detail.
- 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.

This resource was adapted from What Can I Do With My Major.

For more, visit <https://web.uri.edu/career/wcidwmm/>

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What Can I Do With This Major? features 100 major profiles with information on common career paths, types of employers that hire in the field, and strategies to maximize opportunities. Scroll to the...

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