



# Archaeology

## College of Liberal Studies

The Archaeological Studies Program at UW-L is one of, if not the best comprehensive undergraduate program in archaeology in the United States and the only one in the Midwest. Lewis Binford, one of the most influential archaeologists in the discipline's history, said of our program: "I can say without hesitation that this is the best undergraduate program in archaeology that I have seen anywhere in this country." The uniqueness of our program lies in the fact that it is an interdisciplinary major that integrates the fields of New World and Old World Archaeology, Cultural Anthropology, Physical Anthropology, Geoarchaeology, and Cultural Resource Management. We are able to provide our undergraduate students with practical experience unmatched by other programs of its kind because of our close relationship with the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center (MVAC), the research arm of our program, which conducts extensive research and public education activities throughout the tri-state region of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. Because our program is built around close student-instructor interaction and intensive hands-on experience at MVAC, our students are given ample opportunity for intense participation in all aspects of archaeological field and laboratory research. More than \$80,000 annually is spent to hire students for part- and full-time lab and fieldwork during the summer and school year. This support ensures that students graduate with both academic and practical job preparation.

### Undergraduate Program

**Major:**

- Archaeological Studies

**Minor:**

- Anthropology

### Program Features

Research opportunities for students are abundant. Most of our students conduct research in the Midwest and Great Plains through the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center; however, we also provide opportunities for students to engage in archaeological research internationally. In fact, we have recently established an archaeological field school in the Andean highlands of South America.

The staff includes eight archaeologists with nationally and internationally recognized research records. A well-equipped archaeological laboratory and an archaeology/anthropology classroom contain a large collection of artifacts, maps and slides for classroom use.

Enrollment into the archaeology major is limited and there are

specific entrance and graduation requirements. See the UW-L Undergraduate Catalog or the following web page for details.  
<http://www.uwlax.edu/sociology/Archaeology/req4maj.htm>

### Sample Courses

- World Archaeology
- Physical Anthropology
- Historical Archaeology
- Archaeology of the Andes
- Midwest Archaeology
- Prairie-Plains Archaeology
- Bones for the Archaeologist
- Cultural Resource Management
- Field Methods in Archaeology
- Senior Project/Thesis

### Career Opportunities

**Entry Level**

- Archaeological Field Technician
- Archaeological Lab Technician
- Museum Technician/Exhibits Specialist

**Long Term Career Development**

- Archaeology Laboratory Director
- College or University Professor
- Director of Cultural Research Management
- Forensic Anthropologist
- Historic Preservation Officer
- Museum Curator
- Park Ranger
- Research Archaeologist
- State Archaeologist
  
- Our graduates have gone on to specialize in Cultural Anthropology, Cultural Resource Management, Environmental Archaeology, Forensic Anthropology, North and South American Archaeology, Old World Archaeology, Paleo-anthropology and they have pursued careers in the government, public schools, law, medicine, museums and universities.

## Occupational Outlook

There are three main areas of employment opportunities for archaeologists: research and government employment, teaching, and cultural resources management.

Research archaeologists may be hired by federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, the Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, etc.; state agencies such as the Department of Transportation, historical societies and offices of historic preservation, state burial sites preservation programs, etc.; and museums and research institutes such as the Smithsonian, the Chicago Museum of Natural History, the Science Museum of Minnesota, and the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center.

Teaching positions are usually at universities and colleges and always require an advanced degree. Teaching specialties include classical, biblical, environmental, historical or prehistoric archaeology, geoarchaeology, Egyptology, and human skeletal anatomy.

Cultural resources management (CRM) is a product of historic preservation legislation, which has created the fastest growing area of archaeology careers. Frequently, archaeologists work for (or own) private consulting companies that help developers and public agencies meet the requirements of preservation legislation by contracting out their services. These archaeologists locate previously unknown archaeological resources (sites and artifacts), evaluate the importance of resources and, if necessary, conduct rescue excavations if these remains are threatened by development or construction activities. These archaeologists may work for private archaeological consulting firms, engineering firms, environmental consulting firms, or construction companies.

Frequently, professional archaeologists have careers that involve work in more than one of these major areas. For example, an archaeologist who is primarily a university or college teacher during the school year will likely be doing research or consulting work during the summer.

Many undergraduates also choose archaeology as a major not because it is a career choice, but because it is an interesting, broad based, and challenging liberal arts major. These students go on to careers in business, communication, legal or medical professions, teaching, etc

**Archaeological Studies Program**  
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