



Archaeology & Anthropology

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL STUDIES

Undergraduate Programs

MAJOR:

- Archaeological Studies

MINOR:

- Anthropology
- Archaeology

Sample Courses

- World Archaeology
- Physical Anthropology
- Cultural Anthropology
- Archaeology of the Andes
- Midwest Archaeology
- Peopling of the Americas
- Underwater Archaeology
- Pyramids, Temples, Towns: The Archaeology of Ancient Egypt
- Origins of Cities
- Bones for the Archaeologist
- Archaeological Lab Methods
- Cultural Resource Management
- Field Methods in Archaeology (Summer Field School)
- Experimental Archaeology & Ethnoarchaeology
- Geoarchaeology
- Anthropology of the Andes
- Anthropology of Food
- Medical Anthropology
- Peoples & Cultures of SE Asia
- Peoples & Cultures of Africa
- Peoples & Cultures of Latin America
- Hmong Americans
- Social Transformations in Eastern Europe
- Anthropology of Ritual
- Visual Anthropology
 - International Programs in Egypt, Tanzania, the South American Andes, Great Britain, Eastern Europe, and the Dominican Republic

Department Overview

Archaeology is the study of the human past and anthropology is the broader, holistic scientific study of humanity.

Our archaeological studies program is the top comprehensive undergraduate program in archaeology in the U.S. and the only one offered in the Midwest. 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 provide our students with practical experience unmatched by other programs of its kind for three primary reasons: 1) 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 Midwest; 2) Our impressive array of intensive international experiences designed to provide students with practical anthropological, archaeological, and ethnographic methods; 3) Our focus on providing students with training in cutting edge technologies that very few programs in the U.S. offer including: underwater archaeology equipment; geophysical and remote sensing technologies (ground penetrating radar, magnetometer, resistivity meter); precision laser mapping equipment; a complete photogrammetry array; 3-D scanning, photo, and video equipment; photographic drone for aerial photography and video.

Because our program is built around close student-instructor interaction and intensive experiential opportunities, our students are given ample opportunity for participation in field and laboratory research which ensures that they graduate with both academic and practical job preparation.

We also offer minors in both anthropology and archaeology. The anthropology minor provides students with a broad background in one of the most fascinating of social sciences - the scientific study of humanity. Required curriculum in the minor exposes students to all four subdisciplines of anthropology - cultural anthropology, physical anthropology, archaeology, and linguistics - and students are able to round out the minor with a range of elective courses that satisfy their particular interests. The anthropology minor is an excellent pairing with a number of disciplinary majors including archaeology, sociology, communications, women's studies, disciplines in the health sciences, and more.

The archaeology minor is for students who have an interest in the anthropological subdiscipline of archaeology but who are majoring in another discipline. Common majors that are paired with the archaeology minor include history, geology, geography, biology, and physics. The minor in archaeological studies provides students with a strong foundational understanding of the discipline while at the same time allowing for the selection of elective courses that particularly suit the student's interests.

Archaeology & Anthropology Department

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View degree requirements:

www.uwlax.edu/catalog

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Program Features

Research opportunities for students are abundant. Many of our students conduct research nationally (including a new underwater archaeology field school in Florida); however, we also provide opportunities for students to engage in research internationally. In fact, we have field and travel opportunities in Egypt, the Andean highlands of South America, Dominican Republic, and British Isles. New international opportunities currently being developed include an ethnoarchaeological field school in Africa (Tanzania and Kenya) and a study tour experience to Eastern Europe (Ukraine).

The staff includes eight archaeologists and three cultural anthropologists with nationally and internationally recognized research records. We have an extremely extensive and well-equipped arsenal of state-of-the-art field and lab equipment for both archaeological and ethnographic research. We offer an impressive archaeology and anthropology laboratory classroom that contains an extensive collection of artifacts, skeletal specimens, computers, specialized software, 3-D scanner and printer, microscopes, and an array of specialty analysis equipment.

Enrollment into the archaeology major is limited and there are specific entrance and graduation requirements. Please refer to our website for more information.

Career Opportunities

Degrees in archaeology and anthropology can lead to specialized careers in museums and universities as well as a variety of more common professional pursuits in environmental science, development planning, government agencies, K-12 education, business, law, forensic science, and health care. Specifically, 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, and paleoanthropology. They have pursued careers in the government, public schools, law, medicine, museums and universities.

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
- Applied Anthropologist

Occupational Outlook

Anthropologists pursue a wide variety of careers related to the sciences, social sciences, education, politics, and economics.

Anthropology is also the most important discipline in the social sciences for the health care industry. Anthropology is the third most common disciplinary background of students entering medical school, close behind biology and chemistry.

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.

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.