The Department of Anthropology offers a balanced and flexible program of academic courses and research in cultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, archaeology and biological anthropology. Anthropology contributes to an understanding of the complex problems of human behavior, biology, language, cultural and social organization, and the relationship of humans to their environments. Research carried out in the field, laboratory and library emphasizes past and present modes of living and the origins and distribution of peoples and cultures throughout the world. Although special attention is given to the circumpolar North, faculty also maintain active research programs elsewhere, such as in Asia, Oceania, and elsewhere in the Americas.

Minimum Requirements for Anthropology Bachelor's Degree: 120 credits

Learn more about the bachelor's degree in anthropology, including an overview of the program, career opportunities and more.

The anthropology graduate programs offer a flexible program of academic courses and research opportunities in cultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, archaeology and biological anthropology. Graduate students receive training in research design, research methods, topical themes in areas of faculty and departmental expertise and the intellectual history of their subfield(s). Students become versed not only in their specific research focus but in the broader ethnographic or historical context of their fieldsite, theoretical questions and a range of qualitative and quantitative methods. The program is flexible and students work, in conjunction with their advisory committees, to develop a study plan that will fulfill these goals and which may include coursework in other departments and independent studies. Both graduate programs aim to provide students with preparation that enables them to pursue more advanced training that may lead to further academic study; careers within secondary and higher education; and careers in various levels of government in which some anthropological background or expertise is beneficial. Field research in Alaska is a common experience for students in the department. All graduate students conduct fieldwork, archival or laboratory research appropriate to the discipline or their chosen subdiscipline and research topics.

The M.A. and Ph.D. are both available with an emphasis in any of the four subfields of anthropology and research that draws upon and engages multiple subfields is encouraged.

Minimum Requirements for Anthropology Master's and Doctorate Degrees: M.A.: 30 credits; Ph.D.: 18 thesis credits