

# ANTHROPOLOGY, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.)

[worldstudies.vcu.edu/academics/anthropology](http://worldstudies.vcu.edu/academics/anthropology) (<http://worldstudies.vcu.edu/academics/anthropology/>)

The Bachelor of Science in Anthropology curriculum seeks to ensure that each student develops a solid foundation in the basic principles, theories and techniques of analysis. Since students majoring in anthropology vary in their interests and career goals, the curriculum allows for a great deal of flexibility developing individual courses of study. Students who are interested in pursuing graduate studies in anthropology will usually take more than the minimum number of upper-level courses. The department provides opportunities for involvement in faculty research through its course offerings, which include independent study, internships and honors research.

The Bachelor of Science in Anthropology requires a minimum of 120 credits, with at least 35 of those credits in anthropology averaging a minimum GPA of 2.25. Students must take at least 25 credits in upper-level (300, 400 or 500) ANTH courses. However, a student with a particular anthropological interest that can be best served by courses without the ANTH prefix may suggest a relevant selection of up to six elective credits from such classes to be counted toward the major. Alternatively, in addition to the three experiential credits fulfilling collateral requirements, a maximum of six credits from internships and/or independent studies may be counted toward the elective degree requirements. A plan for such selection must be presented to and approved by the program coordinator in the student's junior year or, for those students entering the program at the junior level, at a time stipulated by the program coordinator.

In order to begin upper-level course work in any foreign language, students must have consecutively completed 101, 102, 201, and 202 or 205 courses in a respective foreign language or prove the equivalent proficiency level through placement testing.

Anthropology majors are strongly encouraged to complete a minor, preferably one offered in World Studies. Students should refer to the listing in the general description of the School of World Studies.

## Student learning outcomes

1. Global knowledge, citizenship and ethics: Anthropology graduates will recognize and describe cultural, economic, informational and social interdependencies that exist among nations and cultures today, including an ethical understanding of the effects of such factors as racial, ethnic and gender differences.
2. Scientific and anthropological literacy: Students will evaluate and assess scientific findings by employing concepts and methodologies of modern science as applied to anthropological questions.
3. Advanced oral and written communication skills: Graduates will effectively communicate ideas about anthropological tenets in both oral and written formats.
4. Research methods and design skills: Students will demonstrate the ability to design appropriate anthropological research questions and apply research methodologies to answer those questions.
5. Critical-thinking skills: Graduates will critically evaluate their own cultural and biological histories and experiences, as well as those of others.

6. Experiential learning: Students will synthesize and apply anthropological tenets in experiential learning opportunities including study abroad, internships, service-learning, independent studies or field schools.

**Upon completing this program, students will know and know how to do the following:**

The goal of the anthropology program is to impart to students a global awareness and appreciation of the full range of human biological and cultural diversity across time and space, as well as of the underlying similarities derived from humans' common evolutionary origins.

Students gain proficiency in the knowledge and application of disciplinary and subdisciplinary research methods and analytic concepts, and are trained to develop a holistic and comparative perspective on the human condition, with regard to the cultural, biological, archaeological and linguistic dimensions of anthropological inquiry.

## Experiential learning and study abroad

Each student completing a degree program within the School of World Studies is required to complete a World ePass as part of their experiential learning requirement; students are also encouraged to participate in a study abroad program. For more information on the ePass portfolio and study abroad opportunities, students may visit the overview page for the School of World Studies (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/school-worldstudies/>).

## Honors in anthropology

Majors in the anthropology program may earn a Bachelor of Science degree with honors in anthropology. Participation in honors thesis research is available to outstanding senior majors and involves the preparation of a senior thesis during the last two semesters of the baccalaureate degree program.

In order to participate in the program, students must meet program entrance requirements, identify a project mentor and receive approval for a project proposal. Honors will be awarded following acceptance of the thesis by the Honors Thesis Committee. The committee will consist of, at a minimum, the project mentor, one other member of the anthropology faculty and one faculty member from outside of the anthropology program.

The project may involve any recognized anthropological topic, theory and/or method that promises to enhance the student's disciplinary perspective, skills and creativity. The project may involve an extension of work initiated in a course, an entirely new project or a collaborative project with the faculty mentor. If the project is an extension of work initiated in a course or developed collaboratively with the mentor, independent, separate, substantial development of the topic in the thesis should be evident in the final product. The thesis should reflect work of high quality for a senior-level course.

Students majoring in anthropology are eligible to participate in the departmental honors program if they have maintained a minimum 3.0 overall GPA and a minimum of 3.3 GPA in the major. Application materials consist of transcripts documenting the required GPAs, a five-to-seven page proposal (including a history and description of the proposed project, an annotated bibliography of relevant sources, a work plan, and a schedule for completion of the project) and a letter of endorsement from the faculty member who has agreed to act as project mentor. Applications must be made and project approval received no later than the first two weeks of classes in the semester in which the project

will commence. A departmental committee will review the application materials, meet with the candidate to discuss the project proposal as needed and render an admission decision. Once admitted, program participants will enroll in ANTH 497. The course may be included in the required hours for the major.

Students will complete six credit hours (over two sequential semesters in their senior year) in ANTH 497 and ANTH 498. The student's work will be evaluated by the project mentor and a departmental committee at the end of the first semester (ANTH 497) and a grade will be assigned. If allowed to continue, the student will enroll in ANTH 498 the subsequent semester. At the completion of ANTH 498, the completed senior honors thesis will be submitted to the HTC following its acceptance by the faculty mentor and confirmation that the candidate has maintained the requisite GPAs.

Upon submission of the thesis, the student will make an oral presentation (to be made no later than two weeks before the end of classes) to the HTC and other faculty as deemed appropriate, summarizing the research procedures and findings. The HTC will then evaluate the thesis for the award of honors. In order to receive honors, the thesis must be evaluated as deserving of a grade of A. Whether or not honors are awarded, a final grade will be submitted for ANTH 498. The awarding of honors for the thesis will earn an Honors Certificate from the department and notation of the student's standing as an honors graduate on the final grade transcript. Students must submit a final copy of the thesis to both the department and the VCU Libraries no later than the last day of classes.

## Degree requirements for Anthropology, Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

| Course   | Title  | Hours |
|--|--|-------|
| <b>General education</b> ( <a href="https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/">https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/</a> ) |  |       |
| Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.  |  | 30    |
| <b>Major requirements</b>  |  |       |
| • Major core requirements <sup>1</sup>   |  |       |
| ANTH 301/BIOL 341  | Human Evolution  | 4     |
| ANTH 302   | Archaeological Theory                                      | 3     |
| ANTH 399   | Junior Seminar   | 1     |
| ANTH 454   | Theory in Cultural Anthropology                            | 3     |
| ANTH 490   | Anthropology Senior Capstone                               | 3     |
| • Additional major requirements  |  |       |
| Select two from:   |  | 6     |
| ANTH 210   | Biological Anthropology                                    |       |
| ANTH 220   | Cultural Anthropology                                      |       |
| ANTH 230   | Anthropological Linguistics                                |       |
| <b>Methods requirement</b>   |  |       |
| Select two from:   |  | 6     |
| ANTH 303   | Archaeological Methods and Research Design                 |       |
| ANTH 315   | Field Methods and Research Design in Cultural Anthropology |       |
| ANTH 328   | Language, Culture and Cognition                            |       |
| • Major electives <sup>2</sup>   |  |       |
| Select at least two courses from one of the elective groups below.   |  | 6     |
| <b>Ancillary requirements</b>  |  |       |

|   |   |            |
|---|---|------------|
| ANTH 103  | Introduction to Anthropology (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for global perspectives)                             | 3          |
| ANTH 105/INTL 104   | Introduction to Archaeology   | 3          |
| BIOL 101  | Biological Concepts (satisfies general education BOK for natural sciences and AOI for scientific and logical reasoning)                                   | 3          |
| HUMS 202  | Choices in a Consumer Society   | 1          |
| MATH 131  | Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics (or higher numbered math course with a minimum grade of C; satisfies general education quantitative foundations) | 3          |
| STAT 210  | Basic Practice of Statistics  | 3          |
| WRLD 495  | World ePass Portfolio   | 0          |
| Experiential fine arts <sup>3</sup>                             |   | 1-3        |
| Experiential learning   |   |            |
| Select one of the following:                                    |   | 0-3        |
| Major-specific service-learning course                          |   |            |
| Study abroad program  |   |            |
| Internship (ANTH 398, ANTH 493, FRLG 493, INTL 493, WRLD 493)   |   |            |
| Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement) |   | 0-6        |
| <b>Open electives</b>   |   |            |
| Select any course.  |   | 39-50      |
| <b>Total Hours</b>  |   | <b>120</b> |

1

Students must attain a minimum grade of C in each of the core anthropology courses.

2

Students must receive approval through the SWS Advising Office for topics courses counting toward the appropriate elective group.

3

Course offered by the School of the Arts

**The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.**

## ANTH electives

| Course   | Title                                  | Hours |
|--|--|-------|
| Select at least two courses from one of the following elective groups. |  |       |
| <b>Biological anthropology</b>   |  |       |
| ANTH 307   | Human Osteology                        | 4     |
| ANTH 309   | Gender and Global Health               | 3     |
| ANTH 310   | Forensic Anthropology                  | 3     |
| ANTH 380   | Medical Anthropology                   | 3     |
| ANTH 383   | Evolutionary Medicine and Anthropology | 3     |
| ANTH 391   | Topics in Anthropology <sup>2</sup>    | 3     |
| ANTH 398   | Field Investigations in Anthropology   | 1-8   |

|   |   |     |
|---|---|-----|
| ANTH 403                                    | Primatology   | 4   |
| ANTH 469                                    | Human Dentition: ID and Anthropology                                | 1-3 |
| ANTH 491                                    | Advanced Topics in Anthropology <sup>2</sup>                        | 1-3 |
| <b>Archaeology</b>                          |   |     |
| ANTH 321                                    | Gender and Culture in Africa  | 3   |
| ANTH 355                                    | Death and Burial  | 3   |
| ANTH 370                                    | Museum Anthropology   | 3   |
| ANTH 375                                    | Field Archaeology   | 6   |
| ANTH 387                                    | Environmental Archaeology   | 3   |
| ANTH 388                                    | African Archaeology   | 3   |
| ANTH 389                                    | World Archaeology   | 3   |
| ANTH 391                                    | Topics in Anthropology <sup>2</sup>                                 | 3   |
| ANTH 394                                    | Historical Archaeology  | 3   |
| ANTH 398                                    | Field Investigations in Anthropology                                | 1-8 |
| ANTH 491                                    | Advanced Topics in Anthropology <sup>2</sup>                        | 1-3 |
| <b>Cultural/anthropological linguistics</b> |   |     |
| ANTH 200                                    | Introduction to African Societies                                   | 3   |
| ANTH 309                                    | Gender and Global Health  | 3   |
| ANTH 321                                    | Gender and Culture in Africa  | 3   |
| ANTH 330                                    | Languages of Past Cultures: Historical Linguistics and Anthropology | 3   |
| ANTH/WRLD 335                               | Language and Society: Sociolinguistics in ____                      | 3   |
| ANTH 348                                    | South American Ethnography  | 3   |
| ANTH 349                                    | Rethinking a Continent: Latin America                               | 3   |
| ANTH 355                                    | Death and Burial  | 3   |
| ANTH 364                                    | Mythology and Folklore  | 3   |
| ANTH 383                                    | Evolutionary Medicine and Anthropology                              | 3   |
| ANTH 390                                    | Introduction to Linguistics   | 3   |
| ANTH 391                                    | Topics in Anthropology <sup>2</sup>                                 | 3   |
| ANTH 398                                    | Field Investigations in Anthropology                                | 1-8 |
| ANTH 425                                    | Religion, Magic and Witchcraft                                      | 3   |
| ANTH 450                                    | Cross-cultural Communication  | 3   |
| ANTH/INTL 455                               | Anthropology of Development and Globalization                       | 3   |
| ANTH 491                                    | Advanced Topics in Anthropology <sup>2</sup>                        | 1-3 |
| INTL 350                                    | Rethinking a Continent: Europe                                      | 3   |

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

#### Freshman year

| Fall semester |   | Hours |
|---------------|---|-------|
| ANTH 103      | Introduction to Anthropology (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for global perspectives) | 3     |
| MATH 131      | Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics (or higher level MATH course; satisfies general education quantitative foundations)  | 3     |
| UNIV 101      | Introduction to the University  | 1     |

|                      |   |   |
|----------------------|---|---|
| UNIV 111             | Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations) | 3 |
| Foreign language 101 |   | 3 |
| Open elective        |   | 3 |

**Term Hours: 16**

#### Spring semester

|                          |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| ANTH 105/INTL 104        | Introduction to Archaeology                                       | 3 |
| HUMS 202                 | Choices in a Consumer Society                                     | 1 |
| STAT 210                 | Basic Practice of Statistics                                      | 3 |
| UNIV 112                 | Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations) | 3 |
| Foreign language 102     |   | 3 |
| General education course |   | 3 |

**Term Hours: 16**

#### Sophomore year

##### Fall semester

|                                  |   |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| ANTH 210 or ANTH 220 or ANTH 230 | Biological Anthropology or Cultural Anthropology or Anthropological Linguistics   | 3 |
| BIOL 101                         | Biological Concepts (satisfies general education BOK for natural sciences and AOI for scientific and logical reasoning) | 3 |
| UNIV 200                         | Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)         | 3 |
| Foreign language 201             |   | 3 |
| General education course         |   | 3 |

**Term Hours: 15**

##### Spring semester

|                                  |   |     |
|----------------------------------|---|-----|
| ANTH 210 or ANTH 220 or ANTH 230 | Biological Anthropology or Cultural Anthropology or Anthropological Linguistics | 3   |
| Experiential fine arts           |   | 1-3 |
| Foreign language 202             |   | 3   |
| General education course         |   | 3   |
| General education course         |   | 3   |

**Term Hours: 13-15**

#### Junior year

##### Fall semester

|  |   |                |
|--|---|----------------|
| ANTH 301/ BIOL 341   | Human Evolution   | 4              |
| ANTH 302   | Archaeological Theory   | 3              |
| Open electives   |   | 9              |
| <b>Term Hours:</b>   |   | <b>16</b>      |
| <b>Spring semester</b>   |   |                |
| On-campus or study abroad semester:  |   |                |
| ANTH 399   | Junior Seminar  | 1              |
| Methods requirement  |   | 3              |
| Open electives   |   | 12             |
| <b>Term Hours:</b>   |   | <b>16</b>      |
| <b>Summer semester</b>   |   |                |
| Study abroad, recommended; credits completed during study abroad will decrease open electives needed in subsequent semesters |   | 0-6            |
| <b>Term Hours:</b>   |   | <b>0-6</b>     |
| <b>Senior year</b>   |   |                |
| <b>Fall semester</b>   |   |                |
| ANTH 454   | Theory in Cultural Anthropology   | 3              |
| ANTH 493<br>or<br>ANTH 398   | Anthropology Internship (or anthropology elective)<br>or Field Investigations in Anthropology | 1-3            |
| Major or open elective   |   | 3              |
| Methods requirement  |   | 3              |
| Open electives   |   | 3              |
| World ePass site creation  |   |                |
| <b>Term Hours:</b>   |   | <b>13-15</b>   |
| <b>Spring semester</b>   |   |                |
| ANTH 490   | Anthropology Senior Capstone  | 3              |
| ANTH 493<br>or<br>ANTH 398   | Anthropology Internship (or anthropology elective)<br>or Field Investigations in Anthropology | 1-3            |
| WRLD 495   | World ePass Portfolio   | 0              |
| Major electives  |   | 6              |
| Open electives   |   | 5-6            |
| <b>Term Hours:</b>   |   | <b>15-18</b>   |
| <b>Total Hours:</b>  |   | <b>120-133</b> |

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.