

What can I do with a major in...

Anthropology

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

As a discipline devoted to the study of human culture in all its varieties, anthropology aims to understand the entire culture as a system, considering the relationships among the various aspects such as the economy, political forms, rituals and symbolism, marriage and kinship, gender indigenous histories, and so on. This allows us to understand why people make the choices they do, and the judgments they make about their own and other people's choices. And, in turn, we are able to explain how and why cultures change or do not change. The anthropological approach to culture is critically important in the modern fast-changing world.

Traditionally, anthropologists studied small-scale non-western societies supposedly uninfluenced by a colonial presence. Today the focus is on the effects of colonialism, post-colonial nationalism, and corporate globalization; and also on western cultures. Applied anthropologists contribute to the improvement of world health and nutrition, the development of responsible tourism, the codification of laws in emerging nations, and the development of locally relevant school curricula, among other worthwhile projects.

Students with a background in anthropology are suited to a very wide variety of jobs, including anything involving research into people's lives: advertising, market research, journalism, public relations, purchasing and sales, primary and secondary education (with certification), tourism and travel, law enforcement, domestic and international development, film-making, information services (including library work and web design), and cultural resource management.

Thirty hours of anthropology courses are required for the Anthropology major at UMW. These include 5 required courses and five elective anthropology courses, one of which must be designated "field-research intensive" (FR). Anthropology majors are strongly encouraged to participate in internships, study abroad, and archaeological or ethnographic field schools. They are required to undertake some lengthy piece of individual research as a condition for graduation.

The job titles and hiring institutions which follow are meant to give you an idea of the careers available to anthropology majors, however many other possibilities also exist. You are encouraged to explore all career paths that interest you.

POTENTIAL JOB TITLES

Account executive	Lawyer	Teacher, elementary or
Administrative assistant	Librarian	secondary
Announcer	Market research analyst	Translator
Anthropologist	Museum technician	Travel agent
Analyst	National/State park	Urban planner
Archaeologist	interpreter	Writer
Association executive	Personnel recruiter program	
Caseworker	Coordinator/Assistant	
Clergy member	Public relations rep.	
Community specialist	Reporter	
Cultural affairs specialist	Research assistant	
Curatorial assistant	(documents & records)	
	Social worker	

REPRESENTATIVE HIRING INSTITUTIONS

Advertising agencies & departments
Business corporations & industries
Colleges, schools & educational institutions
Communications-small newspapers,
magazines, radio & TV stations
Community organizations (recreation
departments, YM-YWCAs, Boy Scouts, Girl
Scouts, etc.)
Courts & correctional institutions
Federal agencies
Government agencies; local, state and federal
Hospitals and health care agencies
Human resources departments
Labor unions

Law offices
Market research departments and firms
Mental health agencies
Museums
Professional & technical journals
Public relations firms
Research institutes
Social action agencies: Americorps, Peace
Corps
Social service agencies
Travel agencies

WHERE DO UMW ANTHROPOLOGY MAJORS GO?

EMPLOYERS/INTERNSHIP SITES

- Prince William County
- Catholic Migration and Refugee Services
- University of Mary Washington Galleries
- Greater Fredericksburg Habitat for Humanity
- Genocide Watch
- National Park Service - Prince William Forest Park

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

- American University, Master of Arts in Anthropology
- Georgetown University, MTM in Technology Management
- Marymount University, MBA in Finance
- University of Bradford in England, Master's degree in Archaeological Science
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Master of Arts in Folklore
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Master of Science in Library/Information Science
- University of Virginia

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

1. American Anthropological Association: www.aaanet.org
2. Society for Applied Anthropology: www.sfaa.net/

**The Office of Career Services also maintains a resource library with a variety of books and other printed material where students can access additional information about their major or field of interest. Visit us in Lee Hall, Room 308 to learn more.*