



TERRA

ANTHROPOLOGY

ABOUT MY MAJOR

In Anthropology, we have four different departments: a physical-biological department, an archaeological department, a linguistic department, and a cultural department. Each department encompasses different aspects of anthropology. As part of the major, it is required to take at least one course in each field. That way you have experience in everything. After that, based on your interests you can take more classes in the areas you like the most. To explain each of them, physical biological anthropology is working with dead people and skeletons and looking at how they lived and what aspects affected their life culture; cultural anthropology is a lot more like understanding their life, you go and visit people in different countries and societies and learn about them; linguistics is learning the history of languages, and so you learn both old and new languages; and then archaeology is finding out people's history through objects and artifacts. I prefer physical-biological anthropology.

CHOOSING MY MAJOR

I took a Human Anatomy and Physiology course in high school and we had a mini unit on biological physical anthropology and I kind of fell in love with it. Then I thought if this could be a career that would be great. I googled it and it turned out I could get a degree in this field. There are different people that I've met in my major who didn't decide to do it until they took an Anthro class because some of them can be used as Gen Ed classes, and they found out that they really liked it and decided to continue.

MINORS & CERTIFICATES

I have a Biology minor which kind of aligns with my physical biological category, but there are a lot of options because it can be paired with a lot of different things. There are a lot of people who have either a minor or double major in History. I think Chemistry could also be paired with it, and social sciences go well with anthropology too. It's kind of a small major so you can pair something easily with it.

INTERNSHIPS

I'm scheduled to do a field school this summer. So that is also something with our major is that they try and get you to do field school experiences and they have a lot of connections to try and get you into these field schools and get you that experience. I had the help of a professor to find one in Poland but there are definitely a couple of different ones in Iowa that once you get on the email list, you get several emails about all the opportunities available. I looked for a field school that was more in my interests of physical biological anthropology. So it's mortuary archaeology and it's a program that has been operating for 20 years. We will be learning how to excavate a site by focusing more on things like excavating skeletons, which is a much more delicate process than excavating artifacts.

CAREERS

Careers depend on which field you're in, because there's a lot more jobs in the archaeological field than most of the other ones. So for field work where they are going to build a highway, they need an archaeologist or anthropologist because if they are digging, they need to know whether or not they can dig. Museum jobs are also common. There is a new field emerging where you can work with businesses because you have this knowledge of how humans and societies work and you can help with marketing. A lot of the jobs that you might get with this major might not have anthropology in the title. So if you're looking for the title, you might not find it, but you can definitely have a lot of different jobs. I want to be a forensic anthropologist, so I want to work in a lab with people who are out in the field, identifying bodies and skeletons, and trying to identify who they are and return that history to them.