

ANTHROPOLOGY, BS

Anthropology takes a broad approach to understanding the varied aspects of what makes us human. To help students understand the complexity of culture across human history, our department offers courses in four fields—archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistics, and sociocultural anthropology.

Our faculty encourage students to pursue thematic areas that bridge the traditional fields of anthropology in order to address the complex challenges facing contemporary societies.

These thematic areas include:

- Body, Health, and Medicine
- Critical Perspectives on Race, Gender, and Sexuality
- Ecology and Environment
- Indigeneity, and Colonialism, and Language
- Religion, Urban Economy, and Politics of the State

We aim to educate students to address real-world problems through a combination of classroom learning, seminars, and hands-on field and laboratory research opportunities. Examples of these opportunities include studying primates at the zoo or in a tropical forest, interning at the Middle American Research Institute (MARI), developing language preservation tools, examining fossils and other articles, and conducting ethnographic research at home and around the world.

Requirements Requirements

Thirty-seven credit hours of approved coursework are required for a major in anthropology. Typically, this requirement can be satisfied by ten anthropology courses and two mathematics courses. Within the 37 credit hours required for a bachelor of science major in anthropology, students must fulfill the following requirements:

- At least one course above the 1000 level in each of the four major subdivisions of anthropology: archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistics, and socio-cultural anthropology.
- Students may take no more than two 1000-level courses (six credit hours) as electives to be counted towards the 30 credit hours required for degrees in anthropology.
- Five or six elective courses (18 credits) in anthropology. Among the elective courses, a maximum of one general 3-credit internship course (ANTH 4560 Internship Studies (1-3 c.h.)) is permitted to count in the major. Students who qualify may complete the 3-credit MARI internship course (ANTH 4570 Internship (1-3 c.h.)) to satisfy an additional elective credit in the major.
- Student who choose to receive the B.S. degree must have credit for two mathematics courses.
 - One calculus course, MATH 1210 Calculus I (4 c.h.) or equivalent; and
 - One statistics course MATH 1230 Statistics For Scientists (4 c.h.), or a higher level class in statistics, such as ANTH 6010 Quantitative Methods in ANTH (3 c.h.).
- Newcomb-Tulane College requires all undergraduates to take two tiers of writing to fulfill its undergraduate writing requirement. Anthropology courses that carry the SLA Tier-2 Writing attribute are four-credit hours, but the additional credit hour earned through writing-intensive courses is not counted towards the 30 hours necessary for degrees in anthropology.

Four Major Subdivisions Archaeology

Course ID	Title	Credits
ANTH 2340	Introduction to Archaeology	3
ANTH 2350	Architecture and Power in the Ancient World	3
ANTH 2360	Ancient Trade and Commerce	3
ANTH 3030	Climate Change and Human Evolution	3
ANTH 3240	Ancient Civilizations of Mesoamerica	3

ANTH 3320	Archaeology of Gender	3
ANTH 3430	Archaeology of Cultural Landscapes	3
ANTH 3435	Disasters and Past Societies	3
ANTH 3560	Environmental Archaeology	3
ANTH 4120	Conquest and Colonialism	3
ANTH 4130	North American Prehistory	3
ANTH 4150	African Prehistory	3
ANTH 4410	Olmec and Maya Civilization	3
ANTH 4610	Ceramic Analysis	3
ANTH 4620	Lithic Analysis	3
ANTH 6100	South American Archaeology	3
ANTH 6130	Southeastern U.S. Prehistory	3
ANTH 6220	Material Culture	3
ANTH 6230	Archaeological Theory	3
ANTH 6430	Archaeology of Cultural Landscapes	3
ANTH 6435	Disasters and Past Societies	3
ANTH 6810	Introduction to Maya Hieroglyphs	3

Biological Anthropology

Course ID	Title	Credits
ANTH 3120	Anthropology of Sex and Reproduction	3
ANTH 3140	Primate Ecology and Behavior	3,4
ANTH 3450	Methods of Observation in Behavioral Research	3
ANTH 3720	Adaptation and Human Variability	3
ANTH 3725	Menstruation: Biology and Culture	3
ANTH 3730	Principles of Forensic Anthropology	3
ANTH 3735	Bioarchaeology of Human Sacrifice	3
ANTH 3745	Bioarchaeology of Mummies	3,4
ANTH 3750	Bones, Bodies and Disease	3
ANTH 3755	Human Osteology	3
ANTH 3760	Primate Evolution and Adaptation	3
ANTH 4510	Species Concepts in Human Paleontology	3
ANTH 6020	The Neandertal Enigma	3
ANTH 6120	Anthropology of Sex and Reproduction	3
ANTH 6140	Primate Ecology and Behavior	3,4
ANTH 6480	Human Functional Morphology	3
ANTH 6500	Human Evolution	3
ANTH 6725	Menstruation: Biology and Culture	3
ANTH 6745	Bioarchaeology of Mummies	3

Linguistics

Course ID	Title	Credits
ANTH 3290	The Nature of Language	3
ANTH 3300	History of Writing	3,4
ANTH 3310	Historical Linguistics	3,4
ANTH 3385	Creoles & Creolization	3
ANTH 3400	Language and Culture	3
ANTH 3420	Semantics: Linguistic Approaches to Meaning	3
ANTH 3440	Dialect in America	3
ANTH 3441	Lexicography	3
ANTH 3520	Diaspora Yoruba	3
ANTH 3535	Native American Language and Linguistics	3

ANTH 3590	Introduction To Syntax	3
ANTH 3640	Phonology	3
ANTH 3650	Morphology	3
ANTH 3660	Discourse Analysis	3,4
ANTH 3670	Language & Acquisition	3
ANTH 3680	Language and Power	3
ANTH 3690	Language and Gender	3,4
ANTH 3780	Language Death	3
ANTH 4930	Languages of Louisiana	3,4
ANTH 6385	Creoles & Creolization	3
ANTH 6400	Language and Culture	3
ANTH 6415	Pidgins and Creoles	3
ANTH 6420	Linguistic Field Methods	3
ANTH 6700	Spoken Nahuatl	3
ANTH 6720	Spoken Yoruba	3
ANTH 6800	Spoken Yucatecan Maya	3
ANTH 6840	Beginning Kaqchikel (Maya) Language	3,4

Socio-cultural Anthropology

Course ID	Title	Credits
ANTH 2370	Anthropology and Global Health	3
ANTH 3010	Hunters and Gatherers	3
ANTH 3020	Ethnobiology	3
ANTH 3035	Race and Migration	3
ANTH 3060	Ethnology of South America	3
ANTH 3110	Cultures of Sub-Saharan Africa	3
ANTH 3170	Anthropology of Violence	3
ANTH 3190	Economic Anthropology	3
ANTH 3195	Financial Lives	3,4
ANTH 3200	Magic, Witchcraft and Religion	3
ANTH 3330	Anthropology of Gender	3
ANTH 3340	Social Life and South Asia	3
ANTH 3350	Culture and Religion	3
ANTH 3360	Anthropology of Cities	3
ANTH 3365	The Anthropology of Sex Work	3
ANTH 3370	Locating Southeast Asia	3
ANTH 3395	Ethnography of Performance and Identity in New Orleans and French Louisiana	3
ANTH 3470	Many Faces of Islam	3
ANTH 3480	African Modernities	3
ANTH 3545	Urban Music: Race Class and Sexuality	3
ANTH 3550	Social Change, Sustainability, and Postcolonial Identity in the Caribbean	3
ANTH 3570	Indigenous Movements in Latin America	3
ANTH 3580	The Politics of Fieldwork	3
ANTH 3700	Environmental Anthropology	3
ANTH 3710	Historical Ecology of Amazonia	3
ANTH 3770	Global Vietnam	3
ANTH 3850	The Four-Field Model	3
ANTH 4210	Seminar in Historical Ecology	3
ANTH 6060	Ethnology of South America	3
ANTH 6210	Development of Anthropological Theory	3
ANTH 6340	Medical Anthropology	3

ANTH 6350	Culture and Religion	3
ANTH 6395	Ethnography of Performance and Identity in New Orleans and French Louisiana	3
ANTH 6520	Ethnographic Methods	3
ANTH 6545	Urban Music: Race Class and Sexuality	3
ANTH 6570	Indigenous Movements in Latin America	3
ANTH 6580	The Politics of Fieldwork	3
ANTH 6710	Historical Ecology of Amazonia	3
ANTH 6770	Global Vietnam	3
ANTH 6870	Kaqchikel Maya Culture	3

Additional Information

Given the diversity of topics of interest to anthropologists, anthropology majors are encouraged to take a variety of courses in the different anthropological subfields and in related disciplines, and they are encouraged to integrate anthropology coursework within pre-professional programs of study. Upon consultation with anthropology faculty advisors, students may count up to six credits (two courses) as electives towards the anthropology major from approved courses in other departments.

The subject matter of anthropology is such that most of the curriculum is not an explicitly ordered sequence. Few anthropology courses at Tulane have specific prerequisites (exceptions, mostly linguistic courses, are noted in the catalog), and anthropology majors are expected to choose their courses from among all those with numbers less than 7000. The 6000-level courses are specifically designed for undergraduate as well as graduate students, and all junior and senior majors should choose freely from among these offerings.

Anthropology majors are eligible to apply for the 4+1 program in anthropology, based on consultation with advisors and other mentors. Students in the 4+1 program can earn B.A. or B.S. degrees in anthropology within four years, and M.A. degrees in anthropology based on an additional year of graduate coursework in anthropology taken during their fourth and fifth years. Requirements for this program are outlined on the departmental web site and in the anthropology majors handbook.

The anthropology department administers the Kenneth J. Opat Fund in Anthropology, reserved for the support of undergraduate research in anthropology. Students majoring in anthropology are encouraged to seek further information from their anthropology advisors about the use of this research fund.

Program String and Field of Study: LABS_UG, ANTH

Catalog addenda note: Minor edits were made to this program on 6/11/2025 for clarity and to reflect updated course options.

Contact

For more information, contact the School of Liberal Arts (<https://liberalarts.tulane.edu/anthropology/contact-us/>).