

Minor in Anthropology

The Anthropology Department at the University of Kansas

Anthropologists are concerned with the origin, history, and future of the human species. Our mission is to further our understanding of past and present human societies in their cultural, biological, and environmental contexts. As flows of people, ideas, money, and goods are crossing borders at unprecedented speeds, we are encountering human diversity now, more than ever before. The discipline provides students the knowledge and skills they will need to navigate these complex, multicultural, and rapidly changing worlds. Because we study what it is to be human, the field is one of the most wide-ranging of the academic disciplines.

The Anthropology Department currently offers courses in three main subdisciplines of anthropology: archaeology which is concerned with studying the human past based on the material culture left behind; biological anthropology which investigates human evolution and human variation; and socio-cultural anthropology analyzes the many ways humans organize themselves to live together, and communicate. Anthropologists explore past and present patterns of cultural meaning and power relationships on local and global scales, studying a variety of topics including technology, economy, social and political organization, language, ritual, and religion. Anthropologists across all of the subdisciplines apply holistic, comparative, and evolutionary perspectives and a range of methodologies in their research. We are committed to fieldwork and the application of this knowledge to helping people better understand one another.

Why Study Anthropology at KU?

Students have many reasons for wanting to major in anthropology. Some are curious about the origins of the human species. Others are fascinated by the diversity of human experiences in ancient and modern periods. Some students intend to pursue international careers, where they will use languages and work in cultural contexts very different from those in which they were raised. Others plan to work in museums collecting and curating human cultural resources. Some wish to pursue graduate training in one of the field's subdisciplines, while others seek to use their anthropological training as preparation for professional schools, including law, medicine, public health, journalism, business, and engineering. There are many professions where the broad scientific, humanistic, and multicultural knowledge available through the study of anthropology can be useful—in education, healthcare, law, social work, business, human resources, public affairs, cultural resource management, or laboratory research.

Anthropological Research Opportunities at KU

- Visit the **KU Anthropological Genetics Research Laboratories (<https://kuanthgen.org/>)** for more information regarding our research laboratories. Beginning with the construction of a state-of-the-art ancient DNA lab in 2016, our facilities now include a contemporary DNA laboratory, as well as multiple teaching laboratories for molecular methods and traditional osteological and paleoanthropological classes. Our research foci are on human and non-human population histories and paleoecological reconstruction from sedimentary DNA. We prioritize ethical principles and cultural sensitivity in working in close collaboration with all partners.

- Visit the **Archaeological Research Center** for more information regarding KU's archaeological curation facility, which is located in historic Spooner Hall on the main campus and offers research space and support to Anthropology faculty and graduate students, Archaeology staff, Museum Studies interns, affiliate curators and research associates and visiting scholars.
- **Field Experiences (<https://anthropology.ku.edu/field-experience/>):** Anthropology faculty often offer field schools and other field experiences in archaeology, biological anthropology, and cultural anthropology. Undergraduates and graduate students have recently conducted independent research or participated in collaborative research in the United States, (including Alaska), Mexico, Central, and South America, Africa, and Asia.

For specific questions about our program, please contact us:

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Requirements for the Minor in Anthropology

A minimum of 18 hours and a 2.0 grade-point average in KU Anthropology are required. To declare a minor in Anthropology, students will work with an Academic Advisor in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and will seek guidance from Anthropology faculty members in course selection.

| Code | Title | Hours |
|--|--|-----------|
| Foundations Course | | |
| Students minoring in Anthropology must take one foundations course (3 hours). Satisfied by one of the following: | | 3 |
| ANTH 150 | Becoming Human | |
| | or ANTH 151Becoming Human, Honors | |
| | or ANTH 309Becoming Human | |
| ANTH 160 | The Varieties of Human Experience | |
| | or ANTH 162The Varieties of Human Experience, Honors | |
| | or ANTH 36CThe Varieties of Human Experience | |
| Fundamentals Course | | |
| Students minoring in Anthropology must take one fundamentals course (3 hours). Satisfied by one of the following: | | 3 |
| ANTH 304 | Fundamentals of Biological Anthropology | |
| ANTH 308 | Fundamentals of Cultural Anthropology | |
| ANTH 310 | Fundamentals of Archaeology | |
| Required Elective Courses | | |
| All anthropology courses may be counted toward the required 12 hours of Anthropology minor electives. Nine of the 12 hours of electives must be 300-level or higher. | | 12 |
| Total Hours | | 18 |