WHY STUDY
anthropology
AT WSU VANCOUVER?

Are you interested in understanding the diverse cultures of the world, and the prehistory of those cultures? Are you curious about the relationships between biology and culture? Do you want to learn more about the impact of language on our perceptions of the world? If so, consider earning a bachelor's degree in anthropology.

Anthropology is the holistic study of humankind. It is multidisciplinary by nature, approaching human questions from historical, biological, linguistic and cultural perspectives. The anthropology program at WSU Vancouver emphasizes “public” anthropology, meaning that students are encouraged to share anthropological perspectives with the general public and use anthropological approaches to help solve contemporary problems and issues.

Training in anthropology can help you thrive in our increasingly global economy and ever-diversifying communities. It can also help you master participatory skills in management and decision-making.

For more information
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Earn a degree in
Anthropology

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology
Minor in Anthropology
A foundation for critical thinking

The bachelor’s degree program in anthropology offers a structured course of study in human cultural, ecological and historical diversity, emphasizing a foundation in four areas:

- Archaeology
- Biological anthropology
- Cultural and social anthropology
- Linguistic anthropology

You are encouraged to take at least one course in each of these areas. With an understanding of these subdisciplines, you can develop the flexibility and critical thinking skills needed to bring anthropological approaches to bear on culturally complex problems. The program also reinforces such skills as writing and critical analysis.

Anthropologists at WSU Vancouver are part of the larger anthropology department housed on the WSU Pullman campus. Students can take anthropology at WSU Vancouver as part of a B.A. in Anthropology or a B.A. in Social Sciences.

“Anthropology is the science which tells us that people are the same the whole world over—except when they are different.”
—Nancy Banks Smith

Opportunities for students

Internships

For experience learning to apply classroom knowledge within a professional environment, consider arranging an internship at a local business or agency. Work with a faculty member to find an appropriate placement site.

Fort Vancouver

WSU Vancouver and the National Park Service offer a field school in historical archaeology at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. Students participate in all aspects of field and laboratory work: laying out units, excavation by shovel and trowel, mapping, drawing, photography, and cleaning, identifying and analyzing artifacts.

Student organizations

Get to know your fellow anthropology students. River Cities Anthropological Society was formed to promote anthropology among WSU Vancouver students and local community members. The club sponsors lectures, social activities and field trips. The RCAS also established the Congo Education Project to support formal education systems for rural forest peoples in Central Africa.

Careers

With a B.A. in anthropology, you are prepared for entry-level positions in archaeology, and for jobs in a diverse range of public and private institutions. Changes in local and regional economies have increased the demand for anthropologists. Here are some of the fields that employ anthropologists:

- Administration and management
- Advocacy (human rights/social justice)
- Archaeology
- Business
- Cultural resource management
- Education/Outreach
- Ethnography
- Forensics
- Global health
- Historic preservation
- Humanitarian efforts
- Information Technology
- International Development
- Management Consulting
- Market Research
- Mass Communication
- Museum curation
- Social Services
- Tourism
- Training

“The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human differences.”
—Ruth Benedict

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