Bachelor of Arts in anthropology

Program information

College	Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters		
Department or school	Department of Anthropology		
Degree abbreviation	B.A.	**CIP code**	45.0201
Program website	www.fau.edu/artsandletters/anthro/undergrad		

Our commitment to you

This Academic Learning Compact describes the program's mission, what students who complete the program will know and be able to do and how faculty assess that learning. Florida Atlantic University publishes a compact for every degree program and standalone certificate so students, families, employers and the community can see what each program commits to providing its graduates.

Program mission

The Department of Anthropology strives to provide the very best undergraduate education in what it means to be human, today and in the past. The major pairs a broad foundation in the discipline with close faculty mentoring.

Florida Atlantic University's mission

Florida Atlantic University is recognized as an opportunity university and R1 research institution dedicated to transforming lives through education, discovery, and innovation. We empower students to achieve economic mobility, advance knowledge that creates meaningful impact, and forge partnerships that drive prosperity and connection in the communities we serve.

How the program supports the university mission

The major supports the university's mission by transforming lives through education and discovery. Every student gains hands-on research and fieldwork experience, and student and faculty research helps communities understand their past and present.

About the program

Anthropology majors study human cultures, biology and history in three areas: archaeology, biological anthropology and cultural anthropology. Every student takes at least six credits of hands-on research methods, such as fieldwork, lab research or independent research with faculty. The major is a great fit for curious students who want to understand people and communities.

Student learning outcomes

By graduation, students will be able to demonstrate outcomes in three core areas: content/discipline knowledge and skills (Outcome 1), communication skills (Outcome 2) and critical thinking skills (Outcome 3). Faculty assess all three core outcomes every year.

A. Content/Discipline Knowledge and Skills

What graduates will know and be able to do in their field

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Declarative knowledge:** key vocabulary, history, theories and concepts of the field
- ☒ **Research skills:** finding, gathering, analyzing and reporting information the way the field does
- ☐ **Technical skills:** hands-on tools and methods of the field, such as software, instruments, lesson plans or business reports

Graduates will be able to explain the major concepts, theories and methods of archaeology, biological anthropology and cultural anthropology.
Graduates will be able to use the key vocabulary, ideas and arguments of anthropology to frame a research question.
Graduates will be able to collect information for an anthropology research project through library, field or lab methods.

How students show it

Exams and papers in advanced courses in each of the three areas, and the research papers or lab reports students write in their research methods courses.

Where it is assessed

ANT 4116 Archaeological Research Methods; ANT 4192 Research Methods in Bioarchaeology; ANT 4495 Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology; ANT 4802 Ethnographic Fieldwork; ANT 4824 Fieldwork in Archaeology; ANT 4905 Directed Independent Study

B. Communication Skills

How graduates will share ideas and work with others

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Written communication:** clear, well-organized writing suited to the audience and purpose
- ☐ **Oral communication:** well-organized presentations that connect with an audience
- ☐ **Other forms of communication:** visual, media, performance or exhibit work
- ☐ **Team/collaborative communication:** contributing to group projects and shared goals

Graduates will be able to write in-depth research papers that share anthropological knowledge and follow the publication style of the field.

How students show it

Research papers of 10 pages or more written in research methods courses.

Where it is assessed
ANT 4116 Archaeological Research Methods; ANT 4192 Research Methods in Bioarchaeology; ANT 4495 Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology; ANT 4802 Ethnographic Fieldwork; ANT 4824 Fieldwork in Archaeology; ANT 4905 Directed Independent Study

C. Critical Thinking Skills

How graduates will analyze, create and solve problems

Areas this program addresses (check at least one)

- ☒ **Analytical skills:** weighing evidence, comparing ideas and judging arguments
- ☐ **Creative skills:** combining knowledge to create something new, such as a design, performance or proposal
- ☐ **Practical skills:** applying knowledge to real situations, such as a business proposal, lesson plan or grant

Graduates will be able to research an anthropology topic in the library or the field and analyze the results with qualitative or quantitative methods.

How students show it
The analysis sections of research papers or lab reports from research methods courses.

Where it is assessed
ANT 4116 Archaeological Research Methods; ANT 4192 Research Methods in Bioarchaeology; ANT 4495 Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology; ANT 4802 Ethnographic Fieldwork; ANT 4824 Fieldwork in Archaeology; ANT 4905 Directed Independent Study

Assessment approaches

Every year, faculty review samples of student work to see how well students are meeting all three outcomes, and they use what they learn to improve the program.

Faculty review the research papers and lab reports students complete in their research methods courses. They look at how well students frame a question, use research methods, analyze findings and write for the field. Exams and papers in advanced courses show how well students understand the discipline as a whole. Faculty use these results each year to strengthen courses and the major.

Assessment methods may change over time.