Welcome to the Department of Anthropology at the University of Missouri! Our University is the oldest public land grant institution west of the Mississippi, a member of the AAU and the highest category of research universities. We are a small department with an emphasis on scientific approaches to the study of human biology, behavior, culture, and evolution. Our faculty rank in the top 15 U.S. Anthropology Departments for research productivity by the National Research Council and includes a member of the National Academy of Sciences and six AAAS fellows. We strive to be a friendly, exciting, and fun place for students, staff, and faculty. Currently we are looking forward to moving back into our extensively renovated building with new lab facilities in June 2016!

**Faculty**


**Assistant Professor:** L. W. Cowgill (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=people/cowgill)**, K. Panchanathan (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=people/panchanathan)**, R. E. Walker (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=people/walker)**

**Research Professor:** N. A. Chagnon (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=people/chagnon)

**Post Doctoral Research Fellow:** R. F. Lynch (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=people/lynch), D. A. Nolin (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=people/nolin)

Note: All permanent regular faculty members in the department serve as undergraduate mentors for anthropology majors.

* Graduate Faculty Member - membership is required to teach graduate-level courses, chair master’s thesis committees, and serve on doctoral examination and dissertation committees.

**Doctoral Faculty Member - membership is required to chair doctoral examination or dissertation committees. Graduate faculty membership is a prerequisite for Doctoral faculty membership.**

**Undergraduate**

- BA in Anthropology (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/anthropology/ba-anthropology)
- Minor in Anthropology (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/anthropology/minor-anthropology)

**Advising Contact**

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**Director of Undergraduate Studies:** Dr. Craig Palmer (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=people/palmer) - palmerct@missouri.edu

The University of Missouri Department of Anthropology offers three area program concentrations: general liberal arts BA, pre-professional BA, or Honors BA.

Within each of these three programs, a student may select a subfield of focus (Note: Subfields will not show on transcripts or diplomas):

- Archaeology (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=research/archaeology)
- Biological anthropology (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=research/biological)
- Cultural anthropology (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=research/cultural-anthropology)
- Some combination of the above, or
- An interdisciplinary focus combining anthropology with some other area(s).

An undergraduate major in anthropology provides a broad educational base that can be the core of a liberal arts education or the background for specific vocational or professional goals of a student. Anthropology is of particular value to students planning professional careers in a world of cultural and ethnic diversity. Anthropology majors are required to take core courses in all three focal areas of the discipline, but may emphasize one or more of them in their remaining courses. Students may also develop an interdisciplinary program in cooperation with other departments or schools. In addition, the department offers an anthropology minor to students who are majoring in other departments and who will profit by more formal training in the discipline.

The Anthropology Department provides many opportunities for students to become involved in research and encourages all students to do so. Such experiences help a student develop creativity, critical thinking skills, and skills in problem solving and writing. Students who are interested in doing anthropological research have several options, including working in close conjunction with a faculty member or working on an independent project under faculty supervision. An independent research experience may lead to an honors degree for eligible students.

Undergraduate training in anthropology prepares students for work in government agencies (both in the United States and overseas), museum positions, field positions in, for example, archaeology, ethnography,
human paleontology, death investigation, or linguistic studies, and for graduate study leading toward college or university teaching of anthropology. An anthropology degree also provides good background for careers in business, journalism, health care, law, and many other fields.

The Department of Anthropology has a number of special facilities that are available for use in classes, for individual research opportunities, and in some cases, for the general public to visit. The list is included below. Students interested in additional information are encouraged to consult the following web site: http://web.coas.missouri.edu/~anthro/?q=node/107.

These special facilities include:
- The Museum of Anthropology (https://anthromuseum.missouri.edu) & Museum Support Center
- The Human Skeletal Remains Identification Laboratory
- The Paleoethnobotany Laboratory
- The Zooarchaeology Laboratory
- The Fossil Cast Collection
- MURR (University of Missouri Research Reactor)

### Departmental Honors

The Honors Program is organized under the Honors College (http://honors.missouri.edu) of the College of Arts and Science within the University of Missouri. To be accepted in the Honors Program, the student must achieve and maintain a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.3 in all course work. In addition, to be accepted, and remain eligible for the honors program in the Department of Anthropology, the student must maintain a GPA of 3.5 in all anthropology courses.

The University of Missouri grants three types of Honors degrees to students in the College of Arts and Science:

1. **General Honors**, which is administered by the Honors College and which is obtained by completion of a suitable number of honors courses (see the Honors College for details).
2. **Latin Honors** (e.g., cum laude), which are conferred on students whose GPAs meet specified minimum requirements, and
3. **Departmental Honors**, which is administered by the Department of Anthropology.

The departmental program leading to the BA degree with Honors in Anthropology is designed for students who desire a more intensive experience in anthropology and who wish to work closely with a particular faculty member in the anthropology department on an independent research or scholarly project. A student wishing to graduate with departmental honors must fulfill the basic course requirements for the BA in Anthropology. **In addition, the student, with the assistance of his/her honors advisor, is expected to develop, plan, and conduct research on an independent project.** It is recommended that students in the honors program enroll in ANTHRO 4950H Honors Research in Anthropology, although projects initiated in other courses or through independent, noncredit research experiences may also be honors eligible. To complete the Honors degree, a student must submit the results of the research project as a formal honors thesis that the student defends during an oral examination conducted by an examining committee. The committee consists of three faculty members: the advisor, another faculty member, and the departmental Honors Director. The examination is scheduled no later than the thirteenth week of the term during which the student expects to graduate. Each member of the committee is furnished with a copy of the student’s thesis or evidence of scholarly activity at least ten days before the examination. After the oral defense the student furnishes the department with one final copy of the thesis or evidence of scholarly achievement (e.g., photographs) suitable for preservation in the Departmental Library. Upon completion of the program, the examining committee recommends to the Dean of the College of Arts and Science that the student be awarded a BA with Honors in Anthropology.

### Goals of the Anthropology Curriculum

Students completing an anthropology degree are awarded a BA degree with a major in Anthropology or a BA degree with Honors in Anthropology. The undergraduate program is designed to help students develop an appreciation of other cultures and other world views and to gain an understanding of how and why the diversity in human culture and biology came about. Several goals help faculty teach undergraduates about the nature of the discipline and how to think critically about what it is, what it means and how it is useful in today’s society. These goals include:

- To recognize the broad, cross-cultural generalizations that characterize anthropology
- To recognize the value of a cross-cultural, comparative perspective
- To acquire an understanding of the basic concepts in the subfields of anthropology
- To acquire advanced knowledge in one or more of the subfields
- To acquire an awareness of the interrelationship of the subfields
- To think critically about the nature and content of anthropological questions
- To assess the structure of an argument and evaluate it and its supporting information
- To communicate effectively in writing or through oral presentation
- To strive for innovative and creative thinking
- To think independently both within and outside anthropology

Students are also encouraged to acquire experience in research design and methods (e.g., using the library and internet effectively to gather information on a problem, or understanding and using the methods of one or more subfields). To this end, the department provides abundant opportunities for students to work with faculty members on independent research projects.

### GPA Requirements

The College of Arts and Science requires that students attain a minimum GPA of 2.0 in all courses in their major department and in courses that comprise the related field. In addition, all core courses in anthropology (ANTHRO 2020 or ANTHRO 2021/ANTHRO 2022, ANTHRO 2030, ANTHRO 2050 or ANTHRO 2051/ANTHRO 2052, ANTHRO 4990) must be completed with a grade of C- or higher and students may receive a grade below C- in no more than one other course used to satisfy the major.

### Graduate

- **MA in Anthropology** (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/anthropology/ma-anthropology)
- **PhD in Anthropology** (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/anthropology/phd-anthropology)
With the consent of the student’s committee, a Track 2 student will complete all course requirements for the MA, including the MA exam. Students work closely with a faculty advisor who helps them pursue fellowships/grants and to develop collaborative research projects.

Active areas of research by our 15 anthropology faculty include:

- Archaeology (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=research/archaeology): archaeological theory, evolutionary archaeology, zooarchaeology, lithic artifact analysis, ceramic analysis, and material sourcing studies with regional foci in the American Southwest, Mississippi River valley, and Pacific Northwest.
- Biological anthropology (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=research/biological): skeletal biology, functional anatomy, human osteology, Neanderthals, demography, epidemiology, life history, and primate genetics
- Cultural anthropology (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=research/cultural-anthropology): human behavioral ecology, cultural evolution, medical anthropology, and biocultural anthropology with regional foci in Amazonia, Canada, Caribbean, and South Asia

Incoming graduate students are admitted into one of three tracks:

**Track 1: MA students**

Students admitted to Track 1 will be classified as MA seeking students with Graduate Studies (http://gradstudies.missouri.edu). These students will complete all requirements for the MA degree as currently outlined Graduate Students Handbook (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/sites/default/files/gradfiles/graduatebrochure1415.pdf), including the MA exam and completing a thesis (not a proposal or publication as for Track 2, see below, although eventual publication of the thesis is encouraged). Upon completion, the student can, if eligible, apply to the Anthropology program for acceptance as a PhD seeking student.

**Track 2: PhD students required to complete MA requirements**

Students admitted to this track will be classified as PhD seeking students with Graduate Studies (http://gradstudies.missouri.edu). These students will complete all course requirements for the MA, including the MA exam. With the consent of the student’s committee, a Track 2 student will complete either a thesis OR a proposal formatted for a major granting agency that will serve as the student’s PhD dissertation proposal, OR a primary-authored paper submitted for publication. In each of these cases, the student will orally defend the work. Upon successful completion of these requirements, the student will be awarded an MA, and will then be eligible to continue work towards a PhD without the need to reapply to the program or change student status.

**Track 3: PhD students with MA in hand**

Students admitted to this track will be classified as PhD seeking students with Graduate Studies (http://gradstudies.missouri.edu). They will not be required to complete the MA requirements and will not earn an MA during their graduate work at MU. Upon completion of the requirements currently listed for the PhD program, including coursework, qualifying examination, comprehensive examination, teaching, and dissertation, the student will be awarded a PhD.

**Facilities and Collections**

Departmental research facilities/collections include a paleoethnobotany laboratory, a ceramic analysis laboratory, a stone artifact analysis laboratory, a comparative faunal collection, a skeletal biology laboratory, extensive holdings of New World (especially Missouri) archaeological and skeletal materials and ethnographic specimens from many parts of the world. The department’s Museum of Anthropology (https://anthromuseum.missouri.edu) provides opportunities for museum-oriented studies (see also the Museum Studies Graduate Minor (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandsceience/additional-minors-certifications/graduate-minor-museum-studies)). The Museum Support Center, an archaeological research and curation facility is located on the edge of campus. The University of Missouri Herbarium is also housed in this facility. The University of Missouri Research Reactor provides opportunities for students interested in archaeometry. Resources in other departments or research units available by arrangement include the Archeometrics Laboratory of the Research Reactor, the Electron Microscopy Facility, and the Stable Isotope Laboratory of the Department of Geological Sciences.

**Research by Location**

Regular faculty members of the department conduct research in the following geographical areas, beyond Missouri: the Northwest (archaeology), Europe (biological anthropology), the Mississippi River Valley (archaeology), Canada (biological and cultural anthropology), South Asia—India and Bangladesh (cultural anthropology), Dominica and Amazonia (biological & cultural anthropology), and the North American Southwest (archaeology). Refer to the faculty list for interests of emeritus faculty (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=people/emeritus).

**Financial Assistance**

Financial assistance packages are usually granted on a competitive basis for students who enter the program in the Fall semester. This assistance comes in the form of tuition waivers and stipends provided by Life Science Fellowships, Graduate Studies Fellowships, teaching assistantships, or graduate instructorships. Applications for teaching assistantships and graduate instructorships for both presently enrolled and prospective graduate students must be received by March 1st of the academic year preceding the academic year for which assistance is sought. Applications will be emailed to existing and incoming student prior to the deadline.