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. MU students study the whole of humanity: its history, variability, artifacts, customs, beliefs and value systems which produces sophisticated problem solvers for today’s complex and conflict-prone world.

Faculty

**Professor:** M. V. Flinn (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=people/flinn)***, L. Sattenspiel (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=people/sattenspiel)**


**Assistant Professor:** K. Panchanathan (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/?q=people/panchanathan)**

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

**Post Doctoral Research Fellow:** M. J. Hamilton (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/people/hamilton)

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

Jen Schaffer

Academic Advisor

M110 Student Success Center
schafferjm@missouri.edu
(573) 884-9700

Director of Undergraduate Studies: Dr. Greg Blomquist (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/people/blomquist) - blomquistg@missouri.edu

The University of Missouri Department of Anthropology offers a BA in Anthropology. Students may also earn Departmental Honors, as outlined in the next section.

Within this program, 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, or human paleontology, 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: https://anthropology.missouri.edu/links. (http://web.coas.missouri.edu/~anthro/?q=node/107)

These special facilities include:

- The Museum of Anthropology (https://anthromuseum.missouri.edu) & Museum Support Center
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)

Department of Anthropology

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The Department of Anthropology offers graduate work leading to the degrees of Master of Arts (MA) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) with a current enrollment of about 60 graduate students. Our department has a broad scientific approach to understanding human biology and behavior, both past and present, that is grounded in ecological and evolutionary
theory. The graduate program provides rigorous coursework with a rich combination of hands-on field and laboratory research experiences. 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 regular professors 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
- 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 bicultural anthropology with regional foci in Amazonia, Canada, and the Caribbean

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 the office of Graduate Studies (http://gradstudies.missouri.edu). These students will complete all requirements for the MA degree as currently outlined in our Graduate Students Handbook (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/sites/default/files/gradfiles/graduate_student_handbook_0.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 the office of 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 the office of 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 ceramic analysis laboratory, a stone artifact analysis laboratory, a comparative faunal collection, and a skeletal biology laboratory. The Museum of Anthropology (https://anthromuseum.missouri.edu) houses extensive holdings of New World (especially Missouri) archaeological and skeletal materials and ethnographic specimens from many parts of the world, and provides opportunities for museum-oriented studies (see also the Museum Studies Graduate Minor (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/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 Research Reactor provides opportunities for students interested in archaeometry. Resources in other departments or research units available by arrangement include the Archaeometrics 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), Canada (biological anthropology), Dominica and Amazonia (biological & cultural anthropology), and the North American Southwest (archaeology). Refer to the faculty list for interests of faculty (https://anthropology.missouri.edu/people/faculty) and 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.