BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Program Learning Outcomes for the BA Degree with a Major in Anthropology

Upon completing the BA degree with a major in Anthropology, students will be able to:

1. Acquire a solid foundation in anthropological debates, concepts, goals, and historical development of the discipline. They will develop an understanding of the major subfields and a grasp how the history of the field is relevant to the discipline’s changing understanding of the dynamics of cultures past and present.
2. Acquire a solid understanding of anthropological perspectives on culture, experience, and social practice that will allow them to think historically and comparatively - this perspective will allow students to develop a historically and comparatively informed understanding of culture and social practice, both theoretically and through the study of particular dimensions of culture, for example gender, health, law, ethics, ritual, materiality, heritage, and the environment.
3. Develop an understanding of anthropological theory, method, and analytical tools. They will develop the critical, comparative, and practical tools of the discipline through acquisition of methodological, theoretical, and analytical skills.
4. Develop disciplinary tools for responsibly researching and describing culture and critically conceptualizing the relationship between culture and factors such as historical change, power and social difference, and human diversity.
5. Apply research and analytical tools. They will choose and effectively apply appropriate research and analytical skills to individual research questions and case studies in order to become effective producers and critical evaluators of anthropological knowledge.

Requirements for the BA Degree with a Major in Anthropology

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/degrees). Students pursuing the BA degree with a major in Anthropology must complete:

• A minimum of 10 approved courses (30 credit hours) to satisfy major requirements.
• A minimum of 120 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
• A minimum of 60 credit hours outside of major requirements.
• A minimum of 8 course credits from departmental (ANTH) course offerings. Students may petition the undergraduate advisor to apply up to 2 courses (6 credit hours) consisting of relevant work completed outside anthropology toward satisfaction of the major.
• A minimum of 6 courses (18 credit hours) at the 300-level or above.
• A maximum of 4 courses (12 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credit. For additional program guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the Policies tab.

• A final Capstone or Honors research project culminating in an oral presentation as well as a written paper.

The major in Anthropology has two distinct areas of specialization, as listed below:

• Anthropological Archaeology (p. ), or
• Social-Cultural Anthropology (p. )

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this major. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the major’s academic advisor, or where applicable, the department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the major’s Official Certifier (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier).) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Anthropology</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credit Hours Required for the BA Degree with a Major in Anthropology</td>
<td>120</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Degree Requirements

Core Requirements

Introductory Courses

Select 2 courses from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 201</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL/CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 203</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 205</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Method Course

Select 1 course from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 362</td>
<td>ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TECHNIQUES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 398</td>
<td>ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH METHODS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 458</td>
<td>HUMAN OSTEOLOGY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOSC 303</td>
<td>QUALITATIVE METHODS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Theory Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 302</td>
<td>ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORY: A SURVEY or ANTH 460</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ADVANCED ARCHAEOLOGICAL THEORY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective Requirements

Select 6 additional courses (18 credit hours) from departmental (ANTH) course offerings at the 300-level or above

Research Sequence: Capstone or Honors

Select 1 of the following research sequences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 493 &amp; ANTH 495</td>
<td>SENIOR RESEARCH PREPARATION and ANTHROPOLOGY CAPSTONE</td>
<td>4 or 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 490 &amp; ANTH 491 &amp; ANTH 493</td>
<td>DIRECTED HONORS RESEARCH and SENIOR RESEARCH PREPARATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Anthropology | 30 |
Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree with a Major in Anthropology

**Additional Credit Hours to Complete BA Degree Requirements**

* University Graduation Requirements (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements)  
  Total Credit Hours: 120

**Footnotes and Additional Information**

1. Includes coursework completed as distribution credit, FWIS, LPAP, upper-level, residency (hours taken at Rice), 60 hours outside of the major (if applicable), and any additional academic program requirements. The "hours outside of the major" requirement may include all of the above university requirements.

2. The research sequence consists of 2 courses (4 credit hours) for Capstone students and 3 courses (7 credit hours) for Honors students. All students take ANTH 493. Capstone students will also take ANTH 495. Honors students will also take ANTH 490 for 3 credit hours and ANTH 491 for 3 credit hours.

3. The Anthropology Capstone provides an opportunity for students to conduct an independent research project on a topic that interests them, while working one-on-one with a faculty supervisor. The project culminates in a research paper and a presentation to the faculty and assembled students. The Capstone includes a one-credit research preparation course, ANTH 493, and one three-credit independent research course (Anthropology Capstone ANTH 495).

4. See Opportunities for more information.

**Anthropology Areas of Specialization**

The major in Anthropology has two distinct areas of specialization, Anthropological Archaeology and Social-Cultural Anthropology. Depending on a student’s interest and desired area of focus, students should see specific department advisors for assistance with elective course selection.

**Area of Specialization: Anthropological Archaeology**

In this track (or area of specialization), the focus is on research skills in the library, the field, and the laboratory. Archaeology students will also engage theoretical developments and critical contemporary debates on issues such as the politics of the past and cultural heritage. Students also develop at least one analytical skill, such as, archaeological statistics, osteology, or geoarchaeology, drawing on the university’s laboratory and computer facilities. The archaeology program at Rice has a long-term focus on the archaeology of urban, complex societies in East and West Africa. The program offers students the opportunity to participate in archaeological excavations abroad as well as projects in Houston that focus on the city’s African-American past. Students inquiring about the major with a focus on anthropological archaeology should see Dr. Jeffrey Fleisher (jfleisher@rice.edu, Sewall Hall, 582).

**Area of Specialization: Social-Cultural Anthropology**

This track (or area of specialization) engages with contemporary issues populations, and social dynamics that affect human life and culture broadly around the world. Social-cultural anthropology inquires across a vast range of human concerns from religion to social movements, from gender to medicine, from science studies to media, and from nature to law. Students are trained in ethnographic research methods and qualitative data collection and they learn the theoretical principles that have shaped the discipline as well as contemporary, innovative approaches that question how human sociality is constituted in the 21st century. The social-cultural anthropology program at Rice has always championed interdisciplinary theoretical, and experimental modes of anthropology inquiry, and students are encouraged to add their creative intellectual insights to their research pursuits and goals. Students inquiring about the major with a focus on social-cultural anthropology should see Dr. Beverly Mitchell (bev@rice.edu, Sewall Hall, 584).

**Policies for the BA Degree with a Major in Anthropology**

**Transfer Credit**

For Rice University’s policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university’s official list of transfer credit advisors on their website: https://oaa.rice.edu. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program’s transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

**Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines**

Students pursuing the major in Anthropology should be aware of the following departmental transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 4 courses (12 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing may apply towards the major.
- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director (and/or the program’s official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.
- Dr. Beverly Mitchell is the undergraduate transfer credit advisor. All students seeking transfer credit in anthropology for courses taken elsewhere should see Dr. Mitchell for approval.
- Transfer credit coursework from online-only courses cannot be used to count towards the major.

**Additional Information**

For additional information, please see the Anthropology website: https://anthropology.rice.edu.

**Opportunities for the BA Degree with a Major in Anthropology**

**Academic Honors**

The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate’s academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see Latin Honors (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university) (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) and Distinction in Research and Creative Work (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

**Requirements for the Departmental Honors Program**

The Honors Program is intended to acknowledge outstanding students, and to provide them with advanced training in the planning and execution of sustained, independent research. As a rule, students should petition the undergraduate advisor to be admitted to the Program no later than the 10th week of the spring semester of their junior year. Admission is at the discretion of the department faculty. The only formal prerequisite to
admittance are a Grade Point Average in the major of at least 3.50 and an overall GPA at the end of the junior year of at least 3.00. Final decisions concerning admission are at the discretion of department faculty. Once admitted to the Program, each student must complete a thesis, on a topic of her or his choosing, under the direction of one of the members of the department's faculty. Topics should be approved by the faculty advisor by the end of the first month of the senior year. Theses are due at the end of the last semester of the senior year.

The Honors Thesis includes a one-credit research preparation and support course, ANTH 493, and two three-credit research courses (Directed Honors Research ANTH 490 and ANTH 491).

All honors projects will be considered for the Distinction in Research and Creative Work (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university).

Archaeological Field School in Sub-Saharan Africa

The Department of Anthropology offers a six-week field school in June and July in sub-Saharan Africa, alternating between eastern and western locales. Past field schools have been on the island of Gorée, located off the coast of Senegal, where research focused on the development of Gorée as a supply port for the Atlantic trade, and at Songo Mnara, a 15th-century Swahili urban center on the southern Tanzanian coast. This course is offered for a total of six hours of credit (ANTH 364 and ANTH 370). The course is offered without specific prerequisites, but there is a general requirement that students have some prior course work in archaeology or African history. Program fees apply.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Anthropology website: https://anthropology.rice.edu/.