



AMERICAN
ANTHROPOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION
FOUNDED 1902

What Is Anthropology?

From the Greek anthropos (human) and logia (study), the word *anthropology* itself tells us it is the field that seeks to understand humankind, from its beginnings millions of years ago up to the present day. Anthropology considers how people's behavior changes over time, and how people and seemingly dissimilar cultures are different and the same.



There are many areas of anthropological study...

Sociocultural Anthropology
Seeks to understand the internal logic of societies through ethnography

Archaeology
Retrieves artifacts from the past and places them in context to understand our history and its relevance for today

Physical Anthropology
Traces our biological origins, evolutionary development, and genetic diversity

Linguistic Anthropology
Seeks to explain the very nature of language and its use by humans

Medical Anthropology
Seeks to better understand factors that influence peoples' health and well-being

Forensic Anthropology
Seeks to identify skeletal, or otherwise decomposed, human remains

Business Anthropology
Helps businesses gain a better understanding of their activities and customers

Visual Anthropology
Documents everyday life through filmmaking

Environmental Anthropology
Believes that the well-being of the environment goes hand in hand with the well-being of people

Museum Anthropology
Interprets ethnographic and archaeological collections to the general public

Careers in Anthropology

Today's anthropologists do not just work in exotic locations. They can be found in corporations, all levels of government, educational institutions and nonprofit associations. Anthropologists even work in disaster areas, including Ground Zero in New York and the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

There are not many limits on career choices for anthropologists. AAA doctoral fellows' research projects have focused on virtually everything from the spread of mariachi music across the globe to reducing the exposure of farm workers' children to pesticides.

To determine if a career as an anthropologist is for you, think about the following questions:

What do you want to know?

Anthropologists want to know why things happen. For example, we know how AIDS is spreading, but do we know why? Anthropologists tackle big human problems, such as overpopulation, warfare, and poverty.

What do you want to do?

Anthropological study and training provide the knowledge, skills and tools to work with people, study the past, and shape the future.

Where do you want to work?

Anthropologists work in practically every environment and setting imaginable. They can be found working in large corporations such as Intel and GM or studying primates in Africa. Anthropologists work in deserts, cities, schools even in underwater archaeological sites.

Helpful links to point the way ...

Career DVDs
Anthropology: Real People, Real Careers
Beyond Ethnography: Corporate and
Design Anthropology
www.aaanet.org/publications/pubs/

Careers Page
Employment and career resources
www.aaanet.org/profdev/

AnthroSource
Online portal to journals, newsletters
and monographs in anthropology
www.anthrosource.net

Join AAA
www.aaanet.org/membership/benefits/

Resources for Students
Information on the usefulness of an
anthropology degree, online course
opportunities and more
www.aaanet.org/resources/students/

AAA Bulletin Board
Fellowships, field schools, grants and more
www.aaanet.org/profdev/coop.cfm

AAA Sections and Interest Groups
www.aaanet.org/sections/

AAA RACE Project
A look at race through history, human
variation and lived experience
www.understandingRACE.org

For more information contact the
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What do Anthropologists Do?



Anthropology Career DVDs
Anthropology: Real People, Real Careers
Beyond Ethnography: Corporate and Design
Anthropology

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