Mission Statement

The mission of the UNC Greensboro Department of Anthropology is to strive for excellence in research, teaching, and service. We are firmly committed to the pursuit of anthropological knowledge, and we challenge students to explore the diversity of human experience critically and holistically, both in the past and present. The faculty is committed to advancing foundational anthropological ethics such as the value of human diversity, cultural tolerance, and respect for the practice of different lifeways across the globe. We provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to accomplish their personal goals whether they pursue advanced graduate study or the practical application of anthropological knowledge in the workplace. Anthropology coursework is designed to foster the critical thinking skills necessary to devise realistic solutions, public policy, and effective interventions to address both local and international economic, environmental, health, political, and social problems. This is achieved by incorporating students in active research programs that provide real-world, hands-on experiences and nurture creative problem-solving skills and examples that promote responsible community engagement, heritage conservation, and service.

About

Anthropology is a broad discipline which includes biological anthropology—the study of humans as biological animals; cultural anthropology—the study of humankind in a cultural perspective; archaeology—the recovery and interpretation of ancient human cultural remains; and linguistics—the study of language in culture and society.

The undergraduate major provides for extensive study in cultural anthropology, archaeology, and biological anthropology. Majors who develop a particular interest in one of the subdisciplines may pursue a concentration in that area, or they may choose to take electives in multiple sub-fields. Majors have opportunities to work closely with members of the faculty on current research projects in the lab and in the field. Internships in various agencies are also available.

Anthropology as a major prepares individuals to pursue many avenues of career development. It is the basis for a career as a professional anthropologist. Anthropology combined with other courses of study as double majors enhances career possibilities and professional development. There are, moreover, increasing opportunities for anthropologists to work in government agencies, non-profits, and business. In such settings, anthropological knowledge of biology, culture, and long term patterns of cultural change may be applied to the solution of human problems.