



Anthropology, B.S.

Anthropology is a holistic science dedicated to the study of human cultural and biological diversity and evolution. Anthropology is unique in that it integrates fields of study that traditionally span multiple disciplines in the sciences, arts, and professional studies.

Experience Your Learning

Our research, laboratory, and field experiences are interactive and hands-on, giving you real world experience to prepare for your future.

Participate in archaeological surveys, excavations, and analysis, supported by local archaeological sites, our on-campus simulated site, partnerships with local museums and cultural heritage offices, the Archaeology Research Laboratory, the Cultural Resources Facility, and the Belize Archaeology Field Program.

In the Ethnographic Research Lab, you'll participate in research and applied projects, such as supporting efforts to implement projects by the Wildlands Conservancy and Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria that will re-establish culturally vital landscapes and programs.

Conduct research in comparative anatomy, mechanisms of evolution, evolutionary medicine, bioarchaeology, forensic anthropology, and non-human primate behavior and ecology through the Biological Anthropology Research Center and partnering with local, national, and international agencies. Check out the Medieval Poland Bioarchaeology Field Program.

Students have the opportunity to receive credit for engaging in resume-building internships with local agencies such as museums, tribal historic preservation offices, the coroner's office, nonprofits, shelters, community action groups, advocacy organizations, and more.

Did you know?

- Our small class sizes mean you get to know your peers and instructors well, developing bonds that help you through your schooling and career.
- Anthropology graduates are well suited for the academic, nonacademic, and increasingly global job market, as well as continuation in advanced degree programs.
- In addition to our anthropological field schools, many of our students take advantage of Cal Poly Humboldt's exchange programs, which enable students to travel the world and make hands-on, international experience an integral part of education.



Academics & Options

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Program Concentrations

Archaeology

Archaeologists study material remains, the things that people leave behind, including artifacts such as tools and vessels, features such as hearths and buildings, and ecofacts such as animal bones and plant remains. Archaeologists study this evidence and use that information to better understand the cultures that left them behind.

Biological Anthropology

Biological anthropologists study human biology and evolution across diverse fields: primatologists focus on the behavior, evolution, and conservation of our nonhuman primate relatives; paleoanthropologists focus on the fossil record and genetics, forensic anthropologists analyze skeletal remains in medical, legal, and human rights contexts; and evolutionary health experts use knowledge of evolution to investigate disease and health.

Sociocultural Anthropology

Sociocultural anthropologists investigate ways humans organize themselves, cultural practices, beliefs, meaning and value, and how material and intellectual resources are allocated. Human cultures dynamically change in response to the environment, the people, and other cultures. Sociocultural anthropology promotes an understanding of cultural differences, similarities and negotiations between cultural forms.

Linguistic Anthropology

Linguistic anthropology is the dynamic study of language, addressing topics like language formation and spread, how and why languages change over time, and what happens when multiple languages meet. Linguistic anthropologists investigate how language operates in global society. They study symbolic systems, how language varieties relate to culture and society, and how specific linguistic patterns influence language change.

Minors & Certificates

- Anthropology Minor
- Sustainable Food Systems Minor
- Maritime Archaeology Certificate

Careers

Anthropology students gain specialized knowledge and research skills in subfields and world regions through advanced coursework and hands-on laboratory and field experiences. This provides a basis for employment in a wide range of careers and advanced degree programs.

- Archaeologist
- Museum Curator
- Ethnographer
- Linguist
- Cultural Resources Manager
- Paleoanthropologist
- Forensic Anthropologist
- Primatologist
- Environmental Anthropologist
- Medical Anthropologist
- & more!



I was able to use skills developed at Cal Poly Humboldt to help with my graduate research projects”

Taylor Picard (2019, Anthropology). After graduating from Humboldt State University, Taylor pursued a graduate degree in Maritime Studies from East Carolina University, where they developed photogrammetry methods for Lake Champlain Maritime Museum and completed their thesis which examined the site formation process of the Sea Scout Wreck of Malloys Bay, MD. Currently, Taylor is back at Cal Poly Humboldt working as a field director and resident maritime archaeologist for the Cultural Resources Facility and working on the new Maritime Archaeology Certificate program.