

Anthropology

Learning Goals

1. To learn basic anthropological concepts.
2. To understand centrality of class, ethnicity or race, and gender in most situations.
3. To learn the value of comparative analysis.
4. To understand the need to evaluate all sources of information critically.
5. To learn the value of questioning received wisdom or common sense;
6. To research techniques that will enable students to pursue their own investigations in whatever field they choose.

About the major

Anthropology is the study of people: past and present. Crossing the boundaries between the humanities and the sciences, anthropology considers what it is to be human. Some anthropologists examine the evolution of our biological family or the ways in which humans communicate. Others explore the behaviors of peoples, societies, and cultures worldwide or across millennia. However, all anthropologists concern themselves with the variety and unity of humanity. Anthropologists create a global picture of the human experience and use that picture to solve contemporary problems.

Archaeologists explore history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artifacts and other material remains. Biological anthropologists study evolution, using evidence from the fossil record, genetics, and primate behavior to explore human origins as well as human diversity. Cultural anthropologists examine contemporary or recent

societies, studying not only cultural diversity but also a host of social issues, from the dynamics of power and inequality to the ways in which culture shapes economic, political, and legal systems. Linguistic anthropologists study the characteristics of human language and question how language shapes, and is shaped by, social interactions. Medical anthropologists consider how people view disease and illness in different parts of the world and explore how global, historical, and political factors influence those views.

Together, the subfields of anthropology “make the strange familiar and the familiar strange.” They celebrate the unity and diversity of the human experience.

“My anthropology background has been very helpful in my nursing practice. My studies in cultural anthropology at Middlebury helped me better understand individual and tribal beliefs, perspectives, and practices of my [native American] patients, which is vital to providing successful health care.”

—From the alumni survey

Reasons you might choose this major

- You have an interest in studying the biological and cultural aspects of human development and behavior.
- You are dedicated to becoming aware of our place in nature—who we are, where we come from, and how we understand the diversities as well as the similarities in being humans.
- You appreciate cultural difference and diversity and are interested in learning why people behave the way they do, and how that might fit into any number of career trajectories.



Translating Learning into Professional Competencies

Throughout your time at Middlebury, you will develop and enhance the following core professional competencies, skills, and dispositions highly valued by employers that will prepare you for leadership and success in any given field:

Critical Thinking: Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

Oral/Written Communications: Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms.

Teamwork/Collaboration: Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers from diverse backgrounds.

Leadership: Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

Professionalism/Work Ethic: Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits.

Global/Intercultural Fluency: Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions.

Digital Technology: Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

Career Management: Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional development.

Where anthropology majors go

Applying your learning through internships . . .

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Students have interned or done research at the following:

Andean Alliance for Sustainable Development

Centro de Acogida a Refugiados de Vallecas

Global Exchange

Simply Smiles

Next Generation Scholars

Center for Popular Democracy

Amara Legal Center

YMCA

Discover Rwanda

Harlem RBI & DREAM Charter

School

The Nature Conservancy

Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign

Tarkwa Breman Community Alliance

BUST Magazine

Shelburne Farms

Instituto Municipal de Las Mujeres de Xalapa and Colectiva Akelarre

District Office of Pramila Jayapal

Impact Monterey

. . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. [go/midd2midd](#)

Costs of War Project/Brown University, *Co-Director*

Cleveland Cavaliers, *General Manager*

Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association, *Transportation Analyst*

350.org *US Campaign, Director/Co-Coordinator*

Google, *Brand Solutions Lead*

US Dept of Education, *Civil Rights Attorney*

Conservation International, *Senior Manager, Sustainable Development Policy*

WBUR, *NPR News*

United States Army Reserve, *Second Lieutenant - Military Intelligence*

Ground Media/Self, *Sr. Producer/Documentary Producer*

Senate of Canada, *Principal Clerk*

Hong Leong Group (HLG), *Manager, Corporate Responsibility*

The Financing Alliance for Health, *Country Support STC,*

Fair Trade USA, *Marketing Specialist*

ACAPS, *Humanitarian Consultant/Assessment Expert*

CARE International UK, *Senior Resilience Advisor*

The Famagusta Ecocity Project, *Director*

Global Health Strategies, *Senior Associate*

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, *Programme Officer/Monitoring & Evaluation*

Volunteer Advocates for Immigrant Justice, *Children's Attorney*

Univ California Irvine, *Associate Professor/Center for Health Policy Resea*

ICF International, *Principal*

World Bank, *Senior Social Scientist*

Mampan Development Consulting, *Principal Consultant*

Integrate Health, *Deputy Director*