Anthropology emphasizes a holistic approach to the study of humans, located in all parts of the world, through all periods of time. Anthropology consists of four separate but interrelated sub-disciplines: cultural anthropology, archaeology, physical or biological anthropology, and anthropological linguistics. Our anthropology program focuses primarily on the sub-disciplines of cultural anthropology and archaeology. Students wishing to concentrate in archaeology select the “anthropology major” with an ‘option in archaeology.’

All anthropology majors are encouraged to undertake field study and to study abroad during their undergraduate years. A major in anthropology provides the student with a broad and comparative perspective on issues and problems, which employers find very valuable. An undergraduate degree prepares students for employment in not-for-profit organizations, entry-level work with local, state, or federal government agencies, and employment in the business community. Our program also prepares students for more advanced study which leads to careers in teaching and research at colleges and universities, or careers in museums, or research/consulting with local, national, or international organizations or businesses.

The minor in anthropology is a valuable complement to a major in any social science or humanities discipline. The anthropology minor offers students a choice from among three areas of focus: general anthropology, cultural anthropology, or archaeology.

Caption: Millersville University students raise a tipi.
The Archaeology Option program focuses on historical archaeology of the 17th and 18th century Atlantic World and is based upon an active program of archaeological field research. As part of the hands-on orientation of the program, students participate in and are trained to high professional standards in every phase of archaeological investigation, from survey and field excavation to laboratory analysis and artifact research. Our archaeological laboratory houses a study collection of more than 250,000 artifacts, including assemblages excavated from Rock Ford (the 18th century home of Revolutionary War General Edward Hand), the Mylin Gunshop (c. 1719), the Witmer site (c. 1730), the Graff-Rohrer site (c. 1715), and Elizabeth Furnace village (c. 1746), as well as artifacts from numerous other historic and prehistoric archaeological sites. An archaeology minor also is available and is popular with students pursuing related majors such as History, Education, Economics, and Government.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Anthropology provides students with opportunities for research, internships, study abroad, and participation in the Anthropology Club. Anthropology professors work with students to design their own research projects, which could result in an honors thesis for those interested in a longer-term, more intensive research experience. Students have the opportunity to participate in the Millersville University student research conference, “Made In Millersville” and the PASSHE Undergraduate Anthropology Research Conference, sponsored by the anthropology programs of the 14 state universities.

Faculty assist students in identifying internships that would complement their academic studies and provide valuable experience within their areas of interest. Students have the opportunity to combine a study abroad experience with doing ethnographic fieldwork or archaeological excavations.

The Anthropology Club meets regularly and participates in regional as well as national professional anthropology meetings. The Anthropology Club has organized trips for students to attend the American Anthropological Association (AAA) annual conference. The club organizes field trips to museums and other excursions and events for club members. The Anthropology Club also coordinates programs and activities with another student club, Friends of Advocates for Native Nations (FANN).

Captions - Top: Archaeology students label artifacts. Middle: Archaeology students excavate an 18th century well and screen for artifacts at the Witmer site (c.1730). Bottom: Artifacts from excavations at the Elizabeth Furnace site (1746-1850).