

PLANNING YOUR CAREER IN

Anthropology

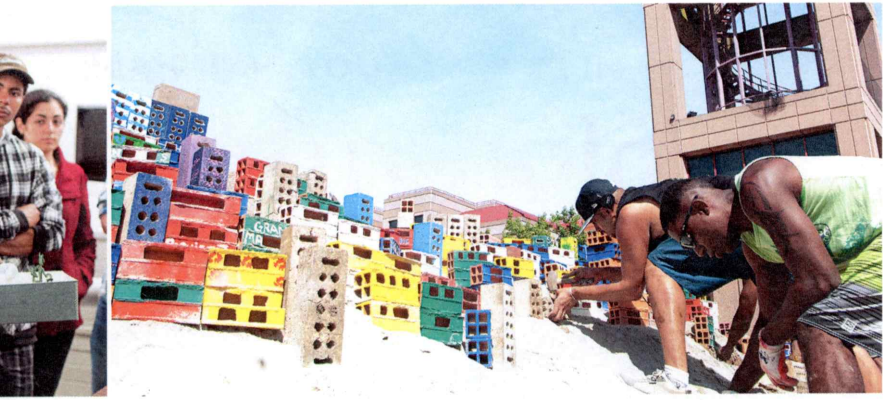




Anthropology is the study of humankind that encompasses and links the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. At the forefront of today's socially engaged scholarship, anthropology addresses questions from human biology to the impact of technology, from cultural identity and communication to historical memory. It provides a foundation in theory and research skills that can be applied to a wide variety of endeavors—thereby equipping students for a large number of professions.

Queens College's anthropology program has a distinguished history. It is housed in Powdermaker Hall, which is named for the pioneering anthropologist Hortense Powdermaker (1896–1970), who founded the college's Anthropology Department. She was one of the first anthropologists to study her own society, conducting hazardous research on race relations in the Depression-era South.

Today's department features a faculty who conduct fieldwork, archaeology, and scientific inquiry all over the world. At Queens College we emphasize an interdisciplinary perspective that combines methodologies from the social and biological sciences. This outlook



leads to cutting-edge research on all aspects of the human condition: from the origin of our species to poverty, power, and conflict.

We offer a solid foundation in basic and advanced courses covering cultural, biological, linguistic, and archaeological anthropology. Depending on your professional goals, you may choose to emphasize coursework in any one of these areas. You may wish to study human societies, cultures, technologies, and languages of the present or past. Or you may prefer to focus on human evolution, biology, and anatomy. Unlike most undergraduate programs, we teach hands-on courses in biological anthropology, including the opportunity to work with a rich teaching collection of bones, casts, and stone tools.

The Major and Minor in Anthropology

Queens College offers both a major and a minor in anthropology. Majors have the choice of two concentrations: a general concentration provides a solid liberal arts education and is adaptable to many career paths; a pre-professional concentration is recommended if you plan to go on for advanced training in anthropology.

With the department's permission, you also may arrange to complete an interdisciplinary major. We recommend that you combine anthropology with a related major or minor—such as Environmental Sciences, Biology, Linguistics and Communication Disorders, Latin American and Latino Studies, or Asian American Community Studies—as this will enhance your professional versatility and depth in today's competitive marketplace.

Skills of the Anthropologist

Whether you hope to remain in the discipline or are planning to work in an allied field, anthropology offers a number of career advantages. It provides a way of “seeing” and “reading” the world that—given our rapidly changing times—is in great demand. It helps you develop the intellectual judgment to become a professional, teaching you to ask questions, apply more than one explanatory model, and adopt a broad perspective. It trains you in sensitivity toward human cultures, helps you develop social ease in unfamiliar surroundings, and the wisdom to listen to different voices. It also instructs you in the value of teamwork, notably by assembling interdisciplinary researchers who bring different backgrounds and approaches to a question.

Anthropology students acquire a range of social, behavioral, biological, archaeological, and other scientific research skills, including:

- Participant observation
- Interviewing techniques
- Action research
- Statistical analysis
- Field methods (surveying, recordkeeping, etc.)
- Laboratory methods
- Digital data collection and analysis (such as use of GIS, transcription and conversation analysis)
- Visual and auditory documentation, including use of photography and film
- Oral and written expression, including ethnographic, report, and grant writing

Career Paths

Given their rich set of skills and varied interests, it is not surprising that anthropologists are found doing different kinds of work around the world. Some still conduct classic, ethnographic fieldwork in cities and rural areas. They also join multidisciplinary teams on archaeological digs, organize collaborative research with local communities, and conduct biological and linguistic research in laboratories. Many anthropologists also teach and, at the university level, combine teaching with research and writing.

Most anthropologists are in applied positions. They work as planners and managers in government, corporations, the media, NGOs, museums, and zoos. They serve on corporate teams; a common instance would be market research, where anthropologists lead focus groups on consumer preferences. They also design and implement programs in community health and economic development. Forensic archaeologists—who have been popularized in novels and on television—work not only with police departments to identify remains but also in universities and museums. Anthropologists work as education officers, curators, and videographers in parks, zoos, and museums. Physical anthropologists work with primates in zoos. The list is almost endless.

Choosing a Degree for Your Career

Perhaps the most important consideration in planning a career is the level of education you will need. Some careers, such as university professors, require a doctorate, while careers in research or clinical practice may require a master's degree or an MD. Our graduates have an excellent track record of being accepted by medical and dentistry schools as well as by graduate programs in public health, education, psychology, biology, international studies, and social work.

There certainly are many opportunities for students who hold a BA. One area of growth at the state and federal levels is contract archaeology, which is research and excavation undertaken to preserve cultural resources that are in danger of being destroyed. There also are openings for anthropology BAs in museums, laboratories, social science research, the media, community organizations, and government.



For more information about
Queens College's degree requirements
and to learn about our distinguished faculty, visit

**www.qc.cuny.edu/anthropology
718-997-5510**

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