

# Paleoanthropology Course Sequence for getting into Graduate School

## Introduction to the Recommended Course Sequences by Subfield

Our 35-credit minimum for the Anthropology major provides you many skills: critical reading, persuasive writing, observation and data gathering methods, qualitative as well as quantitative analyses of social & material phenomena, etc. All of these skills will help you succeed in a variety of fields post-graduation. Furthermore, you may learn all of these and more simply by spreading out your coursework across all four anthropology subfields (Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology, and Sociocultural Anthropology).

But, if you wish to land a position in an Anthropology graduate program, the selection committee of these programs will be examining your coursework, looking specifically for a strong interest in one of the four subfields of Anthropology.

Note that particular graduate programs *also* look for specific recognized combinations of subfields like paleoanthropology (a combination of Biological Anthropology and Archaeology) or specialization within one subfield (primatology being a specialty within biological anthropology, medical Anthropology being a specialty within sociocultural anthropology).

The graduate program selection committee will first look at your degree transcript to see if you have had sufficient training in your desired subfield. Therefore, it is wise to plan your course load for the Anthropology BA to reflect your subfield choice. Our Anthropology BA major requirements ensure that you have a well-rounded training across all four major subfields, but you can use the 5 elective anthropology courses to specialize in one or more subfields.

- If there is more than one subfield foundation course offered in the subfield you wish to specialize in (at present, this is the case for biological anthropology and linguistic anthropology), it is recommended (but not required) that you take both, as these courses are complementary in terms of content.
- If you have balanced your courses across all four subfields and still wish to get a position in a graduate program, **you can still demonstrate your depth in one subfield through your senior project**, which should be executed solidly within one subfield.

The following documents present the recommended sequence of courses for your undergraduate training in preparation for graduate school and/or specific professional job markets requiring a subfield emphasis. These documents should be used in conjunction with the Sample Plans for Anthropology Majors available here: <http://z.umn.edu/11hy>.

Particular subfield emphases may suggest that you take more credits than the minimum of 35 for the BA, but you should try to optimize your training relative to the need to graduate in a timely manner. In other words, while “more is better; most is best” may be a good motto for learning as much as you can within a subfield, both prospective employers and graduate program selection committees do look for undergraduate students graduating in a timely manner.

## **Remember: Here are the Anthropology BA Major Requirements:**

Required credits within the major: 35. Students are required to take 4 semester(s) of any second language as well as complete the general University and CLA requirements including writing and liberal education courses.

### **Preparatory Courses**

- ANTH 1001 - *Human Evolution*, BIOL (4.0 cr)
- ANTH 1003W - *Understanding Cultures*, SOCS, GP, WI (4.0 cr) **OR** ANTH 1005W - *Introduction to Cultural Diversity and the World System*, SOCS, GP, WI (4.0 cr)

### **Subfield Foundation Courses**

Take at least one specified course from at least three of the four subfields:

- Archaeology Subfield:
  - ANTH3001 *Introduction to Archaeology* [SOCS] (4.0 cr)
- Biological Anthropology Subfield:
  - ANTH3002 *Sex, Evolution, & Behavior* (4.0 cr) **OR** Anth3401/5401 *The Human Fossil Record* (3.0 cr)
- Sociocultural Subfield:
  - ANTH3003 *Cultural Anthropology* (3.0 cr)
- Linguistic Anthropology Subfield:
  - ANTH3005W *Language, Culture, & Power* [SOCS, DSJ, WI] (4.0 cr) **OR** ANTH3015W/5015W *Biology, Evolution, and Cultural Development of Language* [SOCS, WI]

### **Upper-Division Training in Anthropology**

- Take 2 or more ANTH courses at the 3xxx, 4xxx, or 5xxx level.
- Take 3 or more ANTH courses at the 4xxx or 5xxx level.

### **Senior Project**

Choose one of the following two options to complete the senior project requirement.

- Option 1: Take ANTH 3913 Senior Project Planning (1.0 credit) at least one term before registering for ANTH 4013 Senior Project (3.0 credits). Honors Program students should take ANTH 4013H Senior Honor Thesis instead of ANTH 4013.  
OR
- Option 2: Take an additional ANTH course of 3.0 credits or more at the 4xxx or 5xxx level.

## **Paleoanthropology Course Sequence for getting into Graduate School**

Underlined courses are mandatory (or one choice to satisfy a mandatory requirement) for the Anthropology major.

Paleoanthropology is a specialized combination of Biological Anthropology and Paleolithic Archaeology that applies multiple perspectives to the study of the behavioral and anatomical evolution of humans. Training in Paleoanthropology thus requires coursework in both subfields. Course offerings in Geology & Geophysics as well as Ecology, Evolution, & Behavior are also frequently useful for aspiring paleoanthropologists. You should choose a good introduction to univariate statistics course to satisfy your Mathematics Core for the LE requirement. Paleoanthropology graduate program selection committees will look to see if you have taken courses that give you competence in the following subjects:

### **One or more courses from the Human Behavioral Biology Course Sequence:**

1. ANTH 3002 - *Sex, Evolution, and Behavior: Examining Human Evolutionary Biology* (every Spring term)
  - ANTH 4009W – *Warfare and Human Evolution* (alternate Spring terms, to be taken after 3002; alternates with 4329)
  - ANTH 5009 – *Human Behavioral Biology* (alternate Spring terms, to be taken after 3002; alternates with 4329)

### **One or more courses in Primatology:**

1. ANTH 4329/EEB4329 - *Primate Social Behavior and Ecology* (alternate Fall terms)
2. ANTH 5113 *Primate Evolution* (alternate Spring terms)

### **Three or more courses in Paleoanthropology:**

1. ANTH 1001 – *Human Evolution* (every Fall and Spring term)
  - ANTH 3401/5401 – *Human Fossil Record* (every Fall term, to be taken after 1001 and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year )
  - ANTH 4077 – *Neanderthals: Biology & Culture of Humanity's Nearest Relative* (alternate years, to be taken after 1001 and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year )
  - ANTH 3015W/5015W – *Biology, Evolution, and Cultural Development of Language* (alternate Spring terms)
  - ANTH 5113 – *Primate Evolution* (alternate Spring terms, to be taken after 1001 and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year)
  - ANTH 5244 – *Interpreting Ancient Bone* (every Spring term; to be taken after 1001; useful for Paleoanthropology programs)

### **Two or more laboratory courses in Archaeological Artifact Analysis:**

1. ANTH 3001 – *Introduction to Archaeology* (every Fall term)
  - ANTH 3402/5402 – *Zooarchaeology Laboratory* (every Fall term, to be taken after 3001 and in the junior year)
  - ANTH 5269 – *Analysis of Stone Tool Technology* (once every year, usually Fall term but sometimes Spring, to be taken after ANTH3001 and in the junior year)
    - ANTH 3008 – *Introduction to Flintknapping* (every May term; may be taken before or after ANTH 5269)

→ ANTH 5008 – *Advanced Flintknapping* (every May term; to be taken after ANTH 3008)

**One or two courses in Analytical Methods in Biological Anthropology (all require 1001):**

1. ANTH 3404/5405 – *Human Skeletal Analysis* (every Fall term)
2. ANTH 5403 – *Quantitative Methods in Biological Anthropology* (alternate Spring terms)

**One or more courses of practical training in Curation and/or Archaeological Fieldwork Experience:**

1. ANTH 4007 – *Anthropology Laboratory Internship* (every Spring term)
2. ANTH 3221 – *Archaeological Field School* (Summer term)
3. Other fieldwork experience (register for ANTH4991 Independent Study to get U of M credit)

**An excellent Senior Project Thesis:**

1. ANTH 3913 – *Senior Project Planning* (every term; to be done one semester before 4013)  
→ ANTH 4013 – *Senior Project* (every term)