

THE MAJOR IN BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



The George Washington University has always had a strong focus in biological (physical) anthropology, supported by close connections with the Smithsonian. Because of its emphasis on the sciences, students in this major will earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Anthropology. Compared to the general Anthropology major, the B.S. in Biological Anthropology requires fewer second-group anthropology courses (101-200), additional science training, and a greater focus on the biological aspects of anthropology. There is no language requirement outside of the General Curriculum Requirements. Students may double-major in Archaeology and Biological Anthropology, but second-group courses cannot count towards both majors; they may not double-major in Anthropology and Biological Anthropology.



Graduates of this program will be competitive in getting into graduate programs in medicine and other health sciences as well as in anthropology, museum studies, and related disciplines. Holders of this degree will also be eligible for museum technician, lab technician, and archaeological crew positions.

For the fall of 2008, the Biological Anthropology major advisors are:

Prof. Robin Bernstein, robinb@gwu.edu, 994-4255, students A-M

Prof. Chet Sherwood, sherwood@gwu.edu, 994-6346, students N-Z

Department of Anthropology

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Requirements for the Major

Students must fulfill the General Curriculum requirements of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and complete 50 or more hours of courses following the distribution below. These courses are typically offered every year, but may be offered every other year or irregularly. Confer with your advisor before planning your schedule.

I. Introductory Courses (21 hours)

- Anth 1 Biological Anthropology
- Anth 2 Sociocultural Anthropology
- Anth 3 Archaeology
- Anth 4 Language in Culture and Society
- BiSc 13* Introductory Biology: The Biology of Organisms
- BiSc 14* Introductory Biology: Cells and Molecules

II. Second-Group Biological Anthropology Courses (4 courses; 12 or more hours)

- Anth 114 Paleanthropological Field Program (3 or 6, summer)
- Anth 141 Functional Anatomy (3, spring)
- Anth 142 Human Evolutionary Anatomy (3, fall)
- Anth 143 Human Growth and Development (3, alternate springs)
- Anth 145 Forensic Anthropology Laboratory; corequisite: Anth 146 (2, spring)
- Anth 146 Human Variation; corequisite: Anth 145 (1, spring)
- Anth 147 Hominin Evolution (3, fall)
- Anth 148 Primatology (3, fall)
- Anth 149 Topics in Biological Anthropology (3)
- Anth 183 Human Cultural Beginnings (3, fall)

III. Other Second-Group Anthropology Courses (2 courses; 6 or more hours)

Any two or more of Anth 130, 150-93

IV. Second-Group Biology Courses (8 or more hours)

Any two or more courses (8 hour min.) in BiSc 102-4, 107-9, 114-128, 132, 137, 150-5, 181, 183, or others*

Students should select second-group courses from at least two different areas of biology: (1) cell and molecular biology, and (2) organismal, evolutionary, and ecological biology.

V. Other Science Course (3 or more hours)

Any one or more courses (3 hour min.) in Chemistry, Geology, Forensic Sciences, Mathematics, Statistics, or Cognitive or Neuropsychology

* Equivalent course might be substituted at discretion of the major advisor.

Special Honors in Biological Anthropology. Students who meet the CCAS requirements for special honors are encouraged to undertake a thesis research project in their senior year. Such students should take 3 or more hours of Anth 195 (Undergraduate Research). See the Department flyer or visit <http://www.gwu.edu/~anth/honors.html>.