

Department Mission:

The mission of the Anthropology Department at SUNY Potsdam is to provide students with knowledge of the five fields of anthropology and to give them practical experience in communities so that they can approach the world professionally and anthropologically.

Students who graduate with a major in anthropology:

demonstrate fundamental anthropological knowledge

- explain the role that culture plays in human behavior and adaptation
- analyze culture change, culture contact and culture conflict on a local, regional and global level
- outline the different components of culture and how they interact
- analyze and interpret the components of language and the role that language plays in cultural interaction
- describe the eras and processes of human prehistory
- explain the basic tenets of biocultural evolution
- describe the history of anthropological theory

access anthropological data and information

- explain how anthropological knowledge is organized and how format affects how it is accessed and evaluated
- identify appropriate anthropological databases, library catalogs, publications, data sets and other sources and evaluate information based on reliability, validity, accuracy, authority, timeliness, point of view and bias
- identify and articulate an appropriate anthropological research topic and the corresponding information need
- demonstrate an understanding of the ethical use of information
- interpret the visual data displayed in maps, charts, graphs, images and objects

apply anthropological knowledge practically and theoretically

- integrate at least two anthropological subdisciplines
- study anthropologically one's own cultural practices, values and beliefs
- interpret some aspect of a culture other than the one's own for an audience of one's peers
- examine ethical dilemmas using anthropological principles
- interpret qualitative data
- interpret quantitative data
- apply anthropological method and theory to a contemporary issue or client's need
- design a study yielding primary data using anthropological methods

create and disseminate anthropological knowledge

- formulate a hypothesis and evaluate the means of testing it
- choose a communication medium, format and style that uses appropriate technology and supports the purposes of the product, the audience and the setting
- critically and self-reflexively assess their position in the production of anthropological knowledge
- use recognized rhetorical techniques to support a thesis
- create well-structured and well-written documents that demonstrate the effective use of anthropological data and information and that use content, paraphrasing and quotations in a way that supports the purposes and format of the product
- cite sources using an appropriate documentation style
- construct a well-crafted and effective
 - summary
 - book review
 - research paper
 - research poster
 - grant proposal
 - resume
 - annotated bibliography
 - speech or presentation

integrate the experiences that will enable them to approach the world professionally and anthropologically

- read an anthropological case study of a culture other than their own and explain how the study adds to our understanding of the human experience
- read a book or report based on archaeological investigation and demonstrate how that work enhances our understanding of the past
- produce a reflexive evaluation of an interaction with members of a culture other than their own
- gather and analyze data using appropriate technology (for example, digital recorder, total station, GIS, NVivo, SPSS)
- demonstrate basic computer skills needed to find, create, apply and communicate anthropological information (for example, Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- work 1:1 or in a small group with a faculty member on an independent study, project, internship or assistantship