

VCU School of World Studies

ANTHROPOLOGY

Studying anthropology

Anthropology is the systematic study of humans, their practices and the myriad of ways they experience these practices. Anthropologists study humanity in its diverse cultural, social, physical and linguistic forms. The anthropology program at Virginia Commonwealth University seeks to ensure that each student develops a solid foundation in the basic principles, theories and techniques of analysis within the discipline through an interdisciplinary approach to studies.

The curriculum

Since students majoring in anthropology vary in their interests and career goals, the curriculum allows for flexibility in developing individual courses of study. The program provides opportunities for involvement in faculty research through its course offerings, which include independent study, internships and honors research.

The student experience

The anthropology program at VCU provides students with a rigorous foundation in the field of anthropology, including its focus on past and present cultures, human development and tolerance of different worldviews. Anthropology classes stress the exchange of ideas and build students' strengths in critical thinking, communication and intellectual exploration. Students are asked to engage in guided and independent studies in which they explore their own communities and venture into new academic and social settings and situations. The faculty are experts in various areas and bring to the classroom a commitment to making the results of scholarship relevant and useful.

Career opportunities

Demand for graduates with degrees in anthropology is high. Anthropology graduates find employment in the many fields in which research on humans and their behavior is needed, including private corporations, nonprofit organizations and government agencies. Anthropology majors commonly find employment in state and federal governments, nongovernmental and other international aid organizations, education, business, human resources, social work, and, increasingly, health care.

The setting

With two main campuses in the heart of Richmond, the state capital of Virginia, VCU is ideally located to provide a dynamic and diverse urban environment for studies. VCU is nationally ranked by the Carnegie Foundation as a top research university and enrolls nearly 30,000 students in 181 programs in the arts, sciences and humanities within 15 schools and the core College of Humanities and Sciences.

More information

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