



Left: A man prepares to celebrate at the Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Festival in Lexington, Kentucky. Right: Practitioners of the ancient Chinese system of mental conditioning, health, and martial arts known as Taiji Quan train in the Bund waterfront area of Shanghai. Photos by Dana Rogers.



## what is anthropology?

Anthropology is the study of humans in all places and times. It is unique for its holistic approach to understanding the human experience from all angles through the lens of four major subfields: archaeological, cultural, biological, and linguistic anthropology. Anthropologists learn about groups of people by living with them and experiencing what they experience, by unearthing clues about their pasts, by studying their bodies and learning their languages. Anthropology observes, preserves, and tells the human story.

## anthropology fast facts

- Anthropology studies ALL humanity in all its diversity — everywhere and in every time.
- Anthropology majors are hired for jobs in medicine, public health, business, marketing, environmental protection, human resources, forensics, museum sciences, and many other fields.

## life as an anthro major...

**Faculty support:** As soon as you declare your major, you will be assigned a faculty mentor or advisor aligned with your interests.

**Join the club:** The Undergraduate Anthropology Club, or UAC, is a student-run organization for anthropology students at UK. By attending the club's meetings, you can make connections and form friendships with your peers and program faculty, engage in rewarding discussions, and view presentations by professional anthropologists. The UAC also offers opportunities for leadership positions and community involvement.

*The University of Kentucky's anthropology faculty taught me to be a scholar in the broadest sense of the word.*

Victor D. Thompson, Ph.D.  
Professor of Anthropology  
University of West Florida

- According to the Harvard Business Review, anthropology is among the best majors for students looking for jobs in the global economy and the U.S. Department of Labor projects a 21% growth rate in anthropology jobs between 2010 and 2020.
- Anthropology more than any other social science because of its holistic nature will help solve our looming global ecological crisis. **Come see how.**

**Learn the language:** The Department of Anthropology at UK offers coursework in all four subfields of anthropology, including linguistics. Majors are also encouraged to develop fluency in another language by taking advantage of the many modern and classical language courses and resources that the university has to offer.

**Study Abroad:** Cross-cultural experiences are essential to an anthropologist's training. That's why we strongly recommend study abroad for all our majors. Your faculty advisor will help you schedule courses for your sejour abroad that will keep you on track with your degree.

**Research:** An important skill for every anthropologist to develop is the ability to perform effective research. At UK you will have the opportunity to perform research for class as well as to pursue independent projects with the help of the undergraduate research office and your faculty mentor.

- Did you know that the following people were anthropology majors? Kurt Vonnegut, Hugh Laurie, Stephen Riggio (CEO, Barnes and Noble), Prince Charles, Kathy Reichs (author and creator of Bones), Dr. Ann Durham (President Obama's mom), Billy Graham and Ashley Judd (she was actually a minor but that totally counts because she was a student in our department here at UK).

## why kentucky?

**Proud Heritage:** The Department of Anthropology at UK was the first of its kind in the southeast and among the earliest established in the nation. The “flagship university of the commonwealth,” UK is also home to the first graduate program in applied anthropology in the United States.

**Research Opportunities:** Students can take advantage of the University of Kentucky’s status as a premier research institution by participating in undergraduate research in conjunction with faculty mentors and the Department of Undergraduate Research. UK hosted the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in 2014.

**Diverse Resources:** The Program for Archaeological Research provides research and community services for organizations across Kentucky and neighboring states. The William S. Webb Museum of Anthropology maintains extensive holdings (9000 collections and over 2 million artifacts). Our majors have the opportunity to pursue internships, independent study, or volunteer opportunities with the faculty and staff of both facilities.



*Anthropology major Chi Woodrich presents research and analysis of his wife’s family’s biennial reunion at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research at Kentucky on April 3, 2014. The session drew an audience of 55.*



## questions?

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Diane E. King  
Director of Undergraduate Studies  
[deking@uky.edu](mailto:deking@uky.edu)  
859-257-2860

Visit our office:

211 Lafferty Hall  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY 40506

Or access our website:  
<https://anthropology.as.uky.edu>



**information for  
prospective majors**