

## **Anthropology Occupations**

One of the first questions that most anthropologists are asked is “What can you do with a degree in anthropology?” The answer is an unlimited list of options depending on which area of anthropology you decide to focus on; for instance, anthropologists work in research labs, for government organizations, for non-profit organizations, for businesses, for the forest service and in the medical field. To explore this question more, scroll down and access the link to the American Anthropological Association’s Career page where they include a variety of employment related topics (listed below) such as where anthropologists are working, the four main career paths for anthropology graduates (presented below), and stories from anthropologists about their present work. There is also a link to a PDF file of “Sample Areas of Anthropological Practice” for more examples.

### **American Anthropological Association Advancing Your Career site:**

<http://www.americananthro.org/AdvanceYourCareer/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=1783&navItemNumber=742>

### **Topics and information on this page include:**

**It's a great time to become an anthropologist!**

**Where are anthropologists working?**

**Today there are four main career paths for anthropology graduates:**

#### **Academic Careers**

On campuses, in departments of anthropology, and in research laboratories, anthropologists teach and conduct research. They spend a great deal of time preparing for classes, writing lectures, grading papers, working with individual students, composing scholarly articles, and writing books.

A number of academic anthropologists find careers in other departments or university programs, such as schools of medicine, epidemiology, public health, ethnic studies, cultural studies, community or area studies, linguistics, education, ecology, cognitive psychology and neural science.

#### **Corporate and Business Careers**

Many corporations look explicitly for anthropologists, recognizing the utility of their perspective on a corporate team. A corporate anthropologist working in market research might conduct targeted focus groups to examine consumer preference patterns not readily apparent through statistical or survey methods. These anthropologists use their research skills to talk to consumers and users of technology to find out how products and services could be improved to better meet the needs of consumers.

#### **Government Careers**

State and local governmental organizations use anthropologists in planning, research and managerial capacities. Contract archaeology is a growing occupation with state and federal legislative mandates to assess cultural resources affected by government funded projects. Forensic anthropologists, in careers glamorized by Hollywood and popular novels, not only work with police departments to help identify mysterious or unknown remains but also work in university and museum settings.

The federal government is one of the largest employers of anthropologists outside of academia. Possible career paths include: international development, cultural resource management, the legislative branch, forensic and physical anthropology, natural resource management, and defense and security sectors.

### **Non-profit and Community-based Careers**

Non-governmental organizations, such as international health organizations and development banks employ anthropologists to help design and implement a wide variety of programs. However, these aren't the only opportunities available.

Many anthropologists work in local, community-based settings for non-profit agencies. Sometimes, they work through community-based research organizations like the Institute for Community Research. Other times, they might work for established organizations in a community like the YMCA, local schools, or environmental organizations.

In response to a survey by the American Anthropological Association's [Committee on Practicing, Applied and Public Interest Anthropology \(CoPAPIA\)](#)\*, respondents provided the following responses to describe their post-graduate employment:

Education/Outreach	Administration/Management
Archaeology	Ethnography/Cultural Anthropology
Cultural Resource Management (CRM)	Evaluation/Assessment
Historic Preservation	Health (international/public health)
Museum/Curation/Project Design	Environment and Natural Resources
Community Development	Business
Advocacy (human rights/social justice)	Tourism/Heritage
Human/Social Services	Healthcare Management/Services/Deliver
Computers/Software Development/Information Technology	Management Consulting/Organizational Development/Training
Design (products and/or services)	Social Impact Assessment
International Development/Affairs	Market Research
Forensics	Law/Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement
Mass Communication	Humanitarian Efforts

### **Areas of Anthropological Study (includes stories from actual anthropologists talking about their careers)**

#### **Additional Career Resources**

- **Career ideas**
- **Portfolio development**
- **Moral support**

## Sample Areas of Anthropological Practice

<b>Academic</b>	Administration, Planning, Program development, Evaluation, Adjunct Faculty, Research Scientist
<b>Administration</b>	Operations, Finance, Planning, Program Technical Manager, Human Resources, Policy Analyst
<b>Aging/Gerontology</b>	Counselor, Volunteer Coordinator, Public officer, Nursing Home inspector, Assisted Living management, Fund raising/development, Eldercare
<b>Agriculture</b>	Reform, Markets/Economy, Development, Policy, Veterinary/Ethnoveterinary, Political Lobby, Education/extension, Youth programs (4-H, FFA)
<b>Arts</b>	Writing, Commercial writing, Screenplays, Painting, Sculpture, Management, Gallery collections, Ethnic art collections, Performing arts, Music, Public arts coordination, Festival management
<b>Business</b>	Advertising, Banking, Organization Development/Change, Training, Career counseling IT/IS, Forecasting/Strategic Planning, Human Resources, Industry/manufacturing, MIS Strategic Planning, Labor Relations, Management, Market Research, Product Design Quality Assurance, ISO Compliance, Regulatory Compliance, Legal, Ombudsman, Internal Consultant, Purchasing Agent
<b>Community Development</b>	Planning, Collaboration, Public officer, Volunteer Coordinator, Public Health, After School Program Coordinator, Arts Coordinator, Fund raising/Community building, Parks and recreation
<b>Education</b>	Action learning, Advocacy, Reform, Literacy, Policy, Outreach, Distance learning, K-12, Adult education/Continuing Education, Curriculum Development, Educational services corporations, Testing and Evaluation, English as a Second Language, After-school Program Coordinator, Safety and Health, Administration, Teaching, Tutoring, Supplemental Education Organizations
<b>Environment/Conservation</b>	Alternative energy, Biodiversity, Management, Disaster relief, Ethnomedicine, Ethnoveterinary, Design and construction, Environmental Impact assessments, Regulatory compliance officers, Federal and State agency positions, Oversight, Permitting, Legal
<b>Diversity/Intercultural</b>	Training, Cultural competency, English as a second language, Interfaith, interdenominational programs coordination, Skills assessment, Language translation Technical writing
<b>Health</b>	Mental Health, Epidemiology, Drugs/Alcohol Use, Disabilities, Medicine, Safety, Administration, Hospital, Pharmacology, Ethnomedicine, Counseling, Community awareness, Outreach and Health Awareness, Diet, Cultural Competency, Illness, Hospice, Nursing, Other care-giving, Transportation for mobility challenged
<b>International Development</b>	Law and policy, Technology transfer, Agriculture, Education, Environment and health, Animal care, Maritime/Fishing/Coastal, Ethnicity, Conflict resolution, Economics
<b>Law/Legal</b>	Comparative, Expert Witness, Criminality, Human Rights, Litigation, Investigation, Regulatory, Counseling, Rehabilitation/Corrections, Jurisprudence, Courtroom activities, Guardian ad Litem/Friends of the Court, Juvenile
<b>Religion</b>	Church organization & management, Faith-based program design and delivery, Community Action, Volunteer coordinator, Education
<b>Technology</b>	Space Exploration, Information Technology, Information Systems, Technology Transfer, Technology commercialization/entrepreneurship, Economy, Cottage industries Appropriate Technology, Manufacturing Technology, Technology and Social Impacts, Security, Energy, Transportation, Safety, Agriculture, Extraction (mining, forestry, fishing, drilling), Industry associations, Policy, Development, Remediation
<b>Tourism</b>	Hotel management, Human resources, Food and catering, Guest services, Tours, Transportation, Economics, International, Local community, Finance and accounting, Marketing, Management, Public Relations, Special Events coordination, Festivals
<b>Urban/Regional Planning</b>	Real estate development, Environmental Compliance, Permitting, Zoning, Emergency Services, Transportation, Roads, infrastructure, Water management, Urban sprawl, Greenspace