ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Immerse yourself in a different way of thinking about the world. Explore other cultures, learn how to solve the pressing problems of development and globalization, and dig into prehistory. Washington College offers unique opportunities for exploring anthropology, or the study of human nature and human society. Courses focus on contemporary cultures, traditional ecological knowledge, human environments, and archaeology and ethics.

INTERNSHIPS

Anthropology is an active major here at WC, and students take part in various internships across their academic careers. Students have interned at:

- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Delaware State Parks
- American Ethnologist
- Disney World
- Historic Jamestown
- Maryland Historic Trust
- Maryland State Archives
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Portrait Gallery
- Naval Academy Museum
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
- Philadelphia Independent Seaport Museum
- SAVE Foundation, South Africa
- Smithsonian Folk Life and Heritage
- Smithsonian Museum Archives
- U.S. State Department
- YAHEL Israel Service Learning

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Caribbean
- Chesapeake Bay Region
- Central and South America
- Southeastern United States
- Southwestern United States

EXPERIENTIAL COURSES

Experiential opportunities include an archaeological field school and courses focused on cultures and environments of the southwestern United States, the intersection of music and culture in Cuba, and international development in Tanzania. Additionally, anthropology students and faculty participate in the interdisciplinary Chesapeake Semester, and there are many opportunities for study abroad. Many students engage in summer internships at locations such as the Smithsonian or the Maryland Archives.

THESIS

The Senior Capstone Experience (SCE) strengthens the student anthropologist’s ability to think critically and conduct research independently. The goal of the SCE is to develop independent-minded and self-selected research with the guidance of a faculty advisor. The SCE in anthropology is a substantial research and writing project completed at the end of the student’s course of study.

Involving active learning and the integration of materials within the major, the project centers on a topic chosen by the student in consultation with a faculty member in this department. The SCE may be a thesis or a project.

Projects include an oral history, a museum exhibit, an ethnographic film project, or a body of materials to be used in elementary or secondary schools or in community-based conservation or development plans. Each project is accompanied by a written document that discusses how the project was researched and carried out and addresses the importance of the project in terms of anthropological theory. A thesis will have a substantial theoretical focus but also may include any of the project forms.
WHY ANTHROPOLOGY AT WASHINGTON COLLEGE?

1. You'll have the opportunity to take part in hands-on learning outside the classroom.
Several opportunities are available for exploration by students in the Anthropology major.

- **Field Schools:** Students have the opportunity to join summer field schools in archaeology or intern with Geographic Information Systems.

- **Internships:** Gain real-world experience and apply what you learn in your classes through an internship focused on anthropology or archaeology. Numerous opportunities are offered at a wide range of museums, universities, governmental agencies, not-for-profits, and volunteer programs.

- **Compleat Angler Fellowship Program:** Work with an Anthropology faculty member to research past and present cultures of the Chesapeake Bay, connecting the classroom to the community and the region. Compleat Angler Fellows can receive grants of up to $1,000.

- **Anthropology Club:** Some of the Anthropology Club’s fun events include a regional conference hosted at WC, participation in National Anthropology Day, and field trips to important cultural events and museums.

- **Honor Society:** Students who excel in anthropology are invited to join Lambda Alpha, the National Anthropology Honor Society.

2. Work closely with faculty on applied anthropology research connected to climate science, criminology, and the preservation of prehistoric sites.

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**Charllotte Costa ’14**

*Anthropology and Hispanic Studies major*

For Charlottte, a Fulbright award to teach English in Mexico brought everything she studied at Washington College into perfect alignment with her future. “Getting to go to Mexico and be an English teacher, I can see where everything starts and where this need to learn English comes from, and how it translates to the whole immigration process. And since I completed my senior thesis on the American dream, I might be able to see where this idea of the American dream starts for all of these students over there.”

Charlottte devoted countless hours through the WC-Latino Community Volunteer Program working with local children to help them learn English. She worked at Shared Opportunities in Chestertown, helping Hispanic families prepare their children for school, and taught a group of about eight youngsters at Garnet Elementary in Chestertown. Charlottte was a member of Sigma Delta Pi, the Spanish Honor Society, and Alpha Chi Omega. She studied abroad in Peru for a semester.