

Archaeology Program

WSU archaeologists conduct research all over the world, including Western North America, Africa, Asia, Mesoamerica, and South America. We are known for scientific approaches to the archaeological record incorporating lithic and ceramic analysis and environmental archaeology (including geoarchaeology, zooarchaeology, analysis of residues and stable isotopes, and paleoethnobotany). Spacious, well-equipped laboratories are devoted to plant macrofossil analysis, geoarchaeology, lithic replication and analysis, ceramic analysis, zooarchaeology, and statistics and simulation. In addition, laboratory space is available for analysis of collections and field records. Instruction and practical experience in GIS are available through other departments on campus, and faculty and graduate students frequently employ spatial analysis and computer simulation in their research.

Other units on campus offer facilities for electron microscopy, as well as NAA, XRF, and ICP-MS analysis of materials. Members of the faculty regularly offer archaeological field schools and conduct field research projects that provide graduate students with opportunities to gain experience and to obtain data for thesis or dissertation research. The collections housed in our Museum of Anthropology also provide opportunities for research leading to the M.A., and potentially the Ph.D.

It is assumed that students who apply to the graduate program in archaeology already have field experience at least equivalent to that provided by an intensive 6- or 8-week archaeological field school. Prior experience in artifact analysis or other aspects of laboratory research is also desirable. Students are encouraged to obtain additional field and laboratory research experience during the course of their graduate study.

The M.A. and Ph.D. programs are focused on developing professional archaeologists, so the course requirements emphasize archaeology rather than general anthropology. It is expected, however, that incoming students will have knowledge of general anthropology equivalent to that gained by completing a four-field undergraduate major. Further breadth—and a shared experience across three graduate streams—is provided by a series of four core courses taken by all graduate students in the department.

The courses required for the M.A. and the Ph.D. furnish students with a sound theoretical and methodological background, and a familiarity with the results of substantive archaeological research in several areas of the world. Each student works with a graduate committee consisting of a chair and at least two other faculty members to develop a program of study that may include courses in addition to the basic requirements, depending on their relevance to thesis or dissertation research. The graduate committee also provides guidance as the student develops a research project leading to a thesis or dissertation. Students should choose a committee chair, form a committee, and file a course program by early in their second semester of graduate study.

For answers to any questions not covered in these pages please email, call or write to us:

Graduate Coordinator

Dr. Colin Grier
cgrier@wsu.edu
(509) 335-7406

Main Office Contact Info:

College Hall 150
PO Box 644910
Pullman, WA 99164-4910

Phone: 509.335.3441
FAX: 509.335.3999

A thesis based on original research is required for completion of the M.A. and a dissertation is required for the Ph.D. With the approval of the archaeology faculty, a set of three articles together with an introduction and conclusion can be substituted for the dissertation.

There is no comprehensive examination at the M.A. level, but an oral exam is conducted after the thesis has been submitted. Students wishing to defend a thesis or dissertation must first submit a complete draft to the committee chair. After response to the chair's comments, and with his or her approval, the thesis or dissertation is then reviewed by the other members of the student's committee and must be received on or before March 10 to defend in the spring semester or October 20 to defend in the fall semester. Completion of a research-based M.A. thesis (either at WSU or another school) is required before students are admitted to the Ph.D. program.

To be admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D., a student must pass a preliminary examination that usually covers at least one geographic area and one or more topical areas relevant to the dissertation research. This exam consists of essays written over a two-week interval in response to questions determined by the committee and the archaeology faculty. This is followed by a two- to three-hour oral exam. Both parts of this preliminary examination are ordinarily taken after completion of required classes. There is an oral defense of the dissertation after it has been submitted. There are no foreign language requirements for the M.A. or Ph.D., unless required by the committee when relevant to the student's research.

Course Requirements for the M.A. Program in Archaeology

Lecture and seminar courses provide 3 units, laboratory courses 4. In creating a program, students choose at least the indicated number of units from each of the following course groups:

Group A - Required Courses: [Take all four for a total of 13 units]

ANTH 510 Fundamentals of Cultural Anthropology (3 units)
ANTH 530 Archaeological Method & Theory (3 units)
ANTH 537 Quantitative Methods in Anthropology (4 units)
ANTH 562 Evolutionary Method and Theory in Anthropology and Archaeology (3 units)

Group B - Topical Courses: [Choose 1, for a total of 3 units]

ANTH 535 Cultural Resource Management (3 units)
ANTH 546 Complexity in Small Scale Societies (3 units)
ANTH 547 Models and Simulation (3 units)
ANTH 548 Hunter and Gatherers: Past & Present (3 units)
ANTH 549 Settlement and Agro-Pastoralism (3 units)

Western Regional Graduate Program (WICHE)

The graduate program in archaeology is a participant in the Western Regional Graduate Program of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). This makes high-quality graduate programs available to WICHE-state students at a reasonable cost. Through this program, residents of:

Alaska
Arizona
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
North Dakota
Oregon
South Dakota
Utah
Washington
and Wyoming

are eligible to enroll at resident rates of tuition.

Group C - Laboratory Courses: [Choose 3, for a total of 12 units]

ANTH 513 Lithic Technological Organization (4 units)
ANTH 514 Ceramic Analysis (4 units)
ANTH 570 Sediments in Geoarchaeology (4 units)
ANTH 573 Zooarchaeology (4 units)
ANTH 576 Paleoethnobotany (4 units)
SOILS 568 ArcGIS and Geospatial Analysis (4 units)
ANTH 591 Isotopes in Archaeology (4 units)
ANTH 591 Residue Analysis in Archaeology (4 units)

Group D - Area Courses: [Choose 1, for a total of 3 units]

ANTH 539 Prehistory of the Southwest (3 units)
ANTH 540 Prehistory of the Northwest Coast (3 units)
ANTH 543 Prehistory of the Plateau and Basin (3 units)
ANTH 591 Mesoamerican Archaeology (3 units)
ANTH 591 Archaeology of Asia (3 units)

Group E - Thesis: [Minimum 4 units]

ANTH 700 Master's Research, Thesis, and/or Examination.

Total Units: Minimum 35

**Course Requirements for the Doctorate
in Archaeology**

In creating a program, students choose at least the indicated number of units from the following course groups:

Group A - Required Courses: [Take all four for a total of 13 units]

ANTH 510 Fundamentals of Cultural Anthropology (3 units)
ANTH 530 Archaeological Method & Theory (3 units)
ANTH 537 Quantitative Methods in Anthropology (4 units)
ANTH 562 Evolutionary Method and Theory in Anthropology and Archaeology (3 units)

Group B - Topical Courses: [Choose 2, for a total of 6 units]

ANTH 535 Cultural Resource Management (3 units)
ANTH 546 Complexity in Small Scale Societies (3 units)
ANTH 547 Models and Simulation (3 units)
ANTH 548 Hunter and Gatherers: Past & Present (3 units)
ANTH 549 Settlement and Agro-Pastoralism (3 units)

Group C - Laboratory Courses: [Choose 4, for a total of 16 units]

ANTH 513 Lithic Technological Organization (4 units)
ANTH 514 Ceramic Analysis (4 units)
ANTH 570 Sediments in Geoarchaeology (4 units)
ANTH 573 Zooarchaeology (4 units)
ANTH 576 Paleoethnobotany (4 units)
SOILS 568 ArcGIS and Geospatial Analysis (4 units)
ANTH 591 Isotopes in Archaeology (4 units)
ANTH 591 Residue Analysis in Archaeology (4 units)



Group D - Area Courses: [Choose 3, for a total of 9 units]

ANTH 539 Prehistory of the Southwest (3 units)

ANTH 540 Prehistory of the Northwest Coast (3 units)

ANTH 543 Prehistory of the Plateau and Basin (3 units)

ANTH 591 Mesoamerican Archaeology (3 units)

ANTH 591 Archaeology of Asia (3 units)

Group E - Dissertation: [Minimum 20 units]

ANTH 800 Doctoral Research, Dissertation, and/or Examination

Group F – Electives: [Minimum 12 units]

Electives other than thesis, dissertation, and research units, as required by student's own program specialization.

Total Units: Minimum 76