Western Michigan University’s Anthropology (M.A.) program provides students with essential training in critical thinking, writing for diverse audiences, and holistic thinking to prepare them for both living and working in a diversity of settings. Our former students have moved on to:

- Work in museums
- Pursue further training in top academic programs in public health, social work, anthropology, medicine, labor studies, creative writing, and law
- Pursue careers in a range of government agencies and non-profit organizations.
- Work in community resource management
- Play important roles in their communities working toward crafting socially and ecologically sustainable communities

The program features faculty who are both dedicated teachers and active researchers and who are widely recognized for their contributions in the field and as active participants in service to their communities. Our department faculty:

- Publish widely and frequently both for scholarly and public audiences
- Have been the recipients of prestigious external and internal grants and awards for research, teaching, and service
- Serve on editorial boards and act in leadership positions in professional organizations

Students in our M.A. program benefit from both extensive exposure to social theory and experiential learning focused on putting that theory into practice through research. Students learn through seminars focused on social theory, classes in research methods, field experiences in conducting research, and experiential learning courses.

Underlying everything the department does is a firm commitment to a public anthropology of, and for, social justice. Our teaching, research, and service focus on public anthropology, violence, health, inequalities and disparities, social movements, and ecological challenges prepares students for making significant contributions in a diversity of arenas.
Anthropology (M.A.)

Teaching, Research, and Program Focus Areas

Students in the department of anthropology have the opportunity to learn by working with faculty widely acknowledged for their expertise in a theoretically informed, four field approach to public anthropology. Our faculty and students embrace the potential of an anthropology of social justice where students engage social theory and practices on issues ranging from ethnohistory, historical archeology and the skeletal record to activist ethnography and writing creatively and effectively for different publics.

Graduates are well-positioned to pursue positions in museums, the non profit sector, cultural resource management, and government as well as further advanced higher education in a wide range of fields (from medicine and public health to social work and law).

A particular emphasis is the focused attention on putting theory into practice through experiential learning and public anthropology. With research methods courses, internships, and classes that emphasize community engagement, graduate students learn by doing.

Admissions

Applications for graduate study are accepted throughout the year. However, the department strongly prefers that students begin the graduate program in the fall semester.

Admission to the graduate program is competitive with admissions decisions being based upon a combination of previous academic work, letters of recommendation, prior relevant experiences, and how applicant’s skills and interests match the type of anthropology done in the department. The GRE is not required. For additional application information visit program website: wmich.edu/anthropology

Graduate Assistantships/Associateships

The department of anthropology offers both teaching assistantships and research assistantships. The number of positions varies in any given year, but are awarded based upon an analysis of applicant's academic record and suitability for available positions. Graduate students are offered a maximum of two years of assistantships.

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Western Michigan University

One of the top-100 public universities in the United States, Western Michigan University offers many nationally known graduate programs, including 29 doctoral and 64 master’s degrees. More than 20 percent of its 25,000 students are enrolled in graduate course work.

Kalamazoo

With a population of more than 325,000, Kalamazoo is the sixth largest metropolitan area in Michigan and among the 150 largest in the country. Kalamazoo is rated one of the 25 best cities in the country for young college graduates, and is located midway between Chicago and Detroit.