

# ANTHROPOLOGY

## Understanding what it means to be human

**A**nthropologists seek to understand the human condition by investigating the past and present as well as applying their knowledge to the future. They are as likely to study the exotic — shamanism among the Dene — as they are the mundane — the meaning of dinner to North Americans. As an Anthropology major at Elon, you will dedicate yourself to answering two central questions: How are humans unique, and how are humans similar? An anthropological imagination — the ability to understand the social construction of cultural assumptions and the influence of our biological heritage while embracing the overall human experience — is an integral part of the field.

With Elon's distinctive balance of theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience such as field research, internships and study abroad, Anthropology majors will build the critical thinking, research, interpersonal and communication skills that will deepen their understanding of the world and broaden their career opportunities.

### CHALLENGING CURRICULUM

At Elon, the disciplines of Anthropology and Sociology are housed within one department to create a comprehensive, integrated approach to the study of various human societies and how those societies are interrelated. You will take that understanding outside the classroom and explore those concepts through field research, study abroad, internships and service learning.

Anthropology's foundational courses introduce students to the four subdisciplines of anthropology:

cultural, biological, archaeological and linguistic anthropology. These are intersected by applied anthropology, which is dedicated to problem-solving using anthropological theories and methods in areas such as consumer research, environmental preservation, disaster recovery, HIV-AIDS, genetic counseling, heritage preservation, immigration and education.

*“Through its wonderful professors and the courses they lead, the Anthropology major will allow you to explore and observe any culture that you can conceive of, while ensuring that you are equipped to do so with the utmost respect and sensitivity. Combined with Elon's countless international programs and research opportunities, you won't find a field that will better prepare you for the cultures you will encounter throughout your lifetime.”*

ASHLEY FOX '05

Armed with an understanding of the discipline, Anthropology majors complete their academic training with the Capstone Senior Seminar in Anthropology, in which they research, write and present a

significant research project in any of the fields of anthropology.

The Anthropology curriculum is designed to enable students to double major or minor in other fields, particularly Sociology. You will be encouraged to expand your academic experience in order to gain a wide range of skills that can be useful in any employment scenario.

### AWARD-WINNING FACULTY

The faculty in Elon's Sociology and Anthropology department bring a wealth of experience, knowledge and diverse interests to the classroom.

**Dr. Anne Bolin**, professor of anthropology, is the author of many books and articles, including the new human sexuality textbook *Human Sexuality: Biological, Psychological and Cultural Perspectives*. Her research has included work on human sexuality, transgendered communities, the gay liberation movement, gender and embodiment, and the anthropology of sport.

**Dr. Kim Jones**, assistant professor of anthropology, has conducted research on Pittsburgh steelworkers, New York City multicultural senior centers, Brazilian hospital culture, and North Carolina service-learning and assisted living. She is the department internship coordinator.

**Dr. Tom Mould**, assistant professor of anthropology, is a folklorist with interdisciplinary research and teaching interests in sacred narrative, southern culture and American Indian studies. He is the author of two books, *Choctaw Prophecy* and *Choctaw Tales*. He is the director of PERCS, the Program for Ethnographic Research and Community Studies.

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**Dr. Rissa Trachman**, assistant professor of anthropology, specializes in Maya archaeology. She is currently conducting field research at the site of Dos Hombres in Belize. Her research also includes topics such as household archaeology, ancient social organization, lithic technology, gender and archaeology, ancient childhood, and everyday life.

## DYNAMIC, HANDS-ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Elon is a national leader in experiential education, and Anthropology majors have some of the most extensive opportunities for field research, international study and internships. For example, during Winter Term, Anthropology majors can travel to Australia to conduct research with Western Australian indigenous peoples. During summer term, students can attend a field school in Belize to conduct original research in Maya archaeology. Professors also lead small groups of students on field research programs around North Carolina and international locations such as London, Brazil and other destinations.

Elon helps Anthropology students secure internships in service, research, teaching and corporate settings. These internships offer invaluable opportunities to put classroom knowledge into action and gain real-world experience.

## CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH IN PREMIER FACILITIES

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology offers a convenient resource center to assist students in research projects, coursework or planning careers and graduate study. The department also houses PERCS, an interdisciplinary teaching-research program dedicated to the study of local and global cultures. The PERCS facility is equipped with qualitative analysis software, video and audio recording equipment, and online resources including teaching modules

on interviewing, observation and ethics. PERCS also sponsors multi-year field research projects, providing students an opportunity to conduct collaborative, in-depth research with faculty leaders, student peers and local community members.

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*“Anthropology has literally opened up the world to me. It has allowed me to go to different countries and study cultures very much different from my own. I have had so many amazing experiences and opportunities through studying anthropology and in the process have found a love for and career in studying the human material past.”*

LANDIS LEE '05, GRADUATE STUDENT IN MUSEOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

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## SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Anthropology majors showcase their research at Elon's annual Student Undergraduate Research Forum and regional and national conferences. Anthropology students also may be eligible for Elon's challenging Fellows programs, including Honors Fellows, Isabella Cannon Leadership Fellows and Elon College Fellows in the College of Arts and Sciences. Each of these programs offers exceptional learning opportunities such as special courses, faculty mentoring, paid research assistantships or internships, and \$1,000 study abroad grants.

Many Fellows receive scholarships ranging from \$2,500 to \$8,000

per year. A special application is required; visit [www.elon.edu/fellows](http://www.elon.edu/fellows).

## PREPARATION FOR A CAREER

An Anthropology degree from Elon prepares students to go on to graduate school or pursue a career in many fields, including:

- Public archaeology
- Forensic anthropology
- Consumer research
- Government agencies and non-profit organizations
- Museum studies
- International public health
- International development and aid organizations
- Health care, social work and cross-cultural counseling
- Environmental/ecological studies
- Food/agricultural studies

Anthropology students have attended prestigious graduate programs such as:

- The College of William and Mary
- University of Debrecen, Hungary
- Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine in Tempe, Ariz.
- City University of New York
- Columbia University
- George Mason University

For more information on Elon's Anthropology program go to [www.elon.edu/socant](http://www.elon.edu/socant).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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