Anthropology programs explore what it means to be human, and teach people to study the evolutionary and biological origin of humankind, as well as the biological, sociocultural, and linguistic developments, capacities, and institutions of societies throughout the world during the past and present. Anthropology includes four broad subfields: sociocultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, biological (physical) anthropology, and archaeology. Sociocultural anthropologists study extant societies, and examine social and cultural institutions, including kinship, social and political organization, religion, and belief systems. Biological anthropologists include primatologists – who study non-human primates; paleoanthropologists – who study fossils of humans and our protohuman ancestors; molecular geneticists – who study the evolution of our species; and scientists who study how humans have adapted to different physical environments around the world. Anthroological linguists study the history of languages, the relationship between language to other elements of culture, and how language usage varies in different social settings. Archaeologists study the cultural developments of ancient peoples, ranging in time from the earliest recognizable cultures some 2.7 million years ago to the material traces of peoples who lived just a few decades ago. Anthropologists carry out research throughout the world. Bachelor's degree holders have limited opportunities but do qualify for various entry-level jobs, such as research assistant, archaeological field worker, administrative aide, or management or sales trainee. A Master’s or PhD is needed for specialized work in the field.

Characteristics associated with success include an interest in other cultures, people, and history.

Programs at Montana State University will emphasize a solid grounding in each of the sub-fields of the discipline, with field and lab research opportunities in archaeology and ethnography. The content and organization of courses provide motivated students with a well-rounded knowledge of the theory and practice of anthropology, including particular skills which are useful in interpreting pre-historic social practices as well as the social and cultural constructions of historic and current-day social groups. With these aims in mind, the course offerings include subjects such as human prehistory, social and cultural anthropology, language and culture, and so forth.

You should have:

- intellectual curiosity and creativity
- an ability to adapt easily to change and to live in unfamiliar living conditions
- an interest in studying humans
- an ability to get along well with others
- an ability to express yourself well in speech and in writing
- objectivity, open-mindedness, and systematic work habits
- perseverance

Occupations in this field can involve research in the following areas:

- Collect information and learn about a culture through observation, interviews, and reviewing documents.
- Plan and direct research to study religion, economics, mythology, and traditions of different cultures or to carry out archeological investigations at locations inhabited by past peoples; or to carry out field work among non-human primates.
- Apply anthropological techniques and concepts to current problems in human relations, such as access to healthcare.
- Develop and apply varying research methods, including individual and group interviews, consultations, and participant observation.
- Design data collection methods. Build and use databases to manage field notes and observations.
- Write about and present research findings.
- Excavate and analyze artifacts and animal bones to find out about ancient cultures.
- Study biological variation between human populations, and how people have adapted biologically to their physical environment.
- Study growth patterns and aging in different human groups.
- Examine museum collections of human fossils to see how they fit into evolutionary theory.
- Advise government agencies and private groups about programs, plans, and policies and how they might impact the community.
- Train research assistants and students in research methods.

Related occupations include:
- Genealogist
- Historian
- Research Worker, Social Welfare
- Sociologist
- Conservator, Artifacts
- Linguist
- Molecular Geneticist
- Biologist
- Paleontologist

MSU graduates (Bachelor’s degree) were hired in the following fields:
- Archeology Technician- United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Ethnoscience, Inc.
- Technician- Mountains Communications

Salary averages of survey respondents: (Number of respondents in parentheses)
- 2007: MT: $26,440 (2)  Out of State: Insufficient Data
- 2006: MT: Insufficient Data  out of state: Insufficient Data
- 2005: MT: Insufficient Data  out of state: Insufficient Data
- 2004: MT: Insufficient Data  out of state: Insufficient Data

Graduates from this program entered graduate programs of further education at these institutions:
- San Diego State University
- University of Wyoming
- University of Utah
- University of Colorado
- Brown University
- California State – Chico
- University of Montana
- University of California at Berkeley
- University of California at Santa Barbara
- University of Alaska
- University of Tennessee
- University of Montana
- University of California at Berkeley
- University of California at Santa Barbara
- University of Alaska
- University of Tennessee

Other Sources of Information:
- American Anthropological Association: www.aaanet.org
- World Council of Anthropological Associations: www.wcaanet.org
- Society for American Archaeology: www.saa.org
- American Association of Physical Anthropologists: http://physanth.org
- American Society of Primatologists: www.asp.org
- Department of Sociology & Anthropology: http://socanth.msu.montana.edu/~dept

2 Montana State University Department of Sociology & Anthropology
3 Montana State University Career & Internship Services
Number of graduates/number of respondents: 2004: 5/3; 2005: 2/0; 2006: 2/0; 2007: 11/5