Undergraduate Study

MIT’s Anthropology Program provides introductions to intensive studies in such areas as environmentalism; agriculture and food production; the organization and cultures of science, medicine, and technology; gender, sex, race, and class; and nationalism and ethnic identity.

Excluding Independent Study, Thesis, and Special Subjects, the Anthropology curriculum is divided into six topic clusters that provide depth on related topics:

- 21A.00 and 21A.01 are core subjects.
- 21A.100 to 21A.199 address general issues related to culture and identity.
- 21A.300 to 21A.399 examine health, disease, medicine, and biology in global and local settings.
- 21A.400 to 21A.499 investigate issues and conflicts related to the environment.
- 21A.500 to 21A.599 focus on science, technology, and media in various institutional, economic, and political contexts.
- 21A.800 to 21A.899 are methods and theory subjects.

For additional information about undergraduate study in anthropology (http://web.mit.edu/anthropology/undergraduate/subjects.html), visit the website.

Students taking a concentration in anthropology should enroll in either 21A.00 Introduction to Anthropology: Comparing Human Cultures or 21A.01 How Culture Works, and two other subjects. Anthropology subjects qualify for several interdisciplinary concentrations, including those in Women’s and Gender Studies, Latin American and Latino/a Studies, and Science, Technology, and Society.

Bachelor of Science in Anthropology (Course 21A)

The undergraduate program leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Anthropology (Course 21A) (http://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/anthropology-course-21a) provides a thorough grounding in cultural anthropology.

Majors learn about the concept of culture and the processes by which humans make meaningful transactions, the nature of ethnographic fieldwork, and the connections between anthropology and the other social sciences. Majors study the theories explaining human behavior as well as the range of methods anthropologists use to analyze empirical data. Students can focus on particular geographical areas, such as Latin America, Europe, North America, Africa, or Asia, and on issues like neocolonialism, ethnic conflict, human rights, environmental movements, globalization, or expressive, medical, or scientific cultures.

The anthropology student comes to understand that the hallmark of the discipline is the comparative study of human societies. Emphasis is on understanding diversity and the importance of the concept of culture in explaining that variety, as well as on learning about the universals of behavior that may underlie diversity.

Joint Degree Programs

Joint degree programs are offered in anthropology in combination with a field in engineering or science (21E, 21S). See the joint degree programs (http://catalog.mit.edu/schools/humanities-arts-social-sciences/humanities/#undergraduate) listed under Humanities.

Either 21A.00 Introduction to Anthropology: Comparing Human Cultures or 21A.01 How Culture Works is strongly recommended as a preliminary subject for all anthropology degree programs.

Minor in Anthropology

The Minor in Anthropology consists of six subjects arranged into two tiers as shown below. Students create individual programs with the help of the minor advisor to ensure that they gain a coherent understanding of the methods, approaches, and some of the results of the discipline.

| Tier I | 21A.00 Introduction to Anthropology: Comparing Human Cultures | 12 |
| Tier II | 21A.01 How Culture Works | |
| | With approval of the minor advisor, select five subjects with a unifying theme (not to include 21A.00 or 21A.01) | 54-60 |
| Total Units | 66-72 |

1 Examples of five subjects with a unifying theme are: Anthropology of Science, Medicine, and Technology (21A.311, 21A.407) (http://student.mit.edu/catalog/search.cgi?search=21a.407&style=verbatim); or 21A.410 (http://student.mit.edu/catalog/search.cgi?search=21a.410&style=verbatim), and three subjects from 21A.500 (http://student.mit.edu/catalog/search.cgi?search=21a.500&style=verbatim) - 21A.520 (http://student.mit.edu/catalog/search.cgi?search=21a.520&style=verbatim); Gender (21A.103[J], 21A.111[J], 21A.141[J], 21A.143[J], and 21A.504[J]); or Culture and Identity (21A.104, 21A.111[J], 21A.130[J], 21A.150, and 21A.155).