

ARCHAEOLOGY MAJOR, B.A.

The undergraduate major in archaeology focuses on the systematic study of the human past through its material remains by means of the excavation, recovery, and interpretation of artifacts and other associated evidence.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the archaeology program, students should be able to:








- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic principles of archaeological reasoning (the ability to analyze ancient material culture and archaeological contexts)
- Demonstrate appropriate skills of archaeological exposition
- Demonstrate proficiency in recovering and documenting a variety of forms of material culture and archaeological contexts
- Demonstrate the ability to utilize both data sets and theoretical frameworks for interpreting and reconstructing long-term human history



























Requirements





















In addition to the program requirements, students must




















- earn a minimum final cumulative GPA of 2.000
- complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC–Chapel Hill courses
- take at least half of their major core requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC–Chapel Hill
- earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 in the major core requirements. Some programs may require higher standards for major or specific courses.

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Hours
Core Requirements		
One course in archaeological method and theory:		3
ANTH 220	 Principles of Archaeology	
ANTH 291	 Archaeological Theory and Practice	
CLAR 411	Method and Theory in Classical Archaeology	
Two courses in archaeological practice:		6-10
One must be a laboratory course:		
CLAR 270	 Quantifying the Past: Big Data and Big Questions in Classical Archaeology	
ANTH 409	 Curating Things	
ANTH 410	The Identification and Analysis of Historical Artifacts	
ANTH 411	 Laboratory Methods in Archaeology ^H	
ANTH 413 & 413L	 Laboratory Methods: Archaeobotany and Archaeobotany Lab	
ANTH 414 & 414L	 Laboratory Methods: Human Osteology and Human Osteology Lab	

ANTH 415 & 415L	 Laboratory Methods: Zooarchaeology and Zooarchaeology Lab
ANTH 416	 Bioarchaeology
ANTH 417 & 417L	Laboratory Methods: Lithic Seminar and Lithic Analysis Lab
ANTH 418	 Laboratory Methods: Ceramic Analysis
ANTH 425	 Public Archaeology Practicum
One must be a field school (may be satisfied with a minimum of 3 hours of transfer credit):	
ANTH 451	 Field School in North American Archaeology ^H
ANTH 453	Field School in South American Archaeology ^H
CLAR 650	Field School in Classical Archaeology
Six courses from the list below; must include offerings from at least two departments ¹	
ANTH 50	 First-Year Seminar: Skeletons in the Closet
ANTH/AMST 54	 First-Year Seminar: The Indians' New Worlds: Southeastern Histories from 1200 to 1800
ANTH 60	 First-Year Seminar: Crisis & Resilience: Past and Future of Human Societies ^H
ANTH 64	 First-Year Seminar: Public Archaeology in Bronzeville, Chicago's Black Metropolis
ANTH 65	 First-Year Seminar: Humans and Animals: Anthropological Perspectives
ANTH 72	 First-Year Seminar: Archaeology and Popular Culture
ANTH 121	 Ancient Cities of the Americas
ANTH 123	 Habitat and Humanity
ANTH 144	Archaeology and the Media
ANTH 145	 Introduction to World Prehistory
ANTH 148	 Human Origins
ANTH 149	 Great Discoveries in Archaeology
ANTH 151	 Anthropological Perspectives on Food and Culture
ANTH 222	 Prehistoric Art
ANTH 231	 The Inca and Their Ancestors: The Archaeology of Andean South America
ANTH 232	 Ancestral Maya Civilizations ^H
ANTH 233	 Archaeology of Ancient Turkey
ANTH 235	 Origins of Civilization: Archaeology of the British Museum
ANTH 250	 Archaeology of North America ^H
ANTH 252	 Archaeology of Food
ANTH 277	Gender and Culture
ANTH 349	 Histories of Violence
ANTH 409	 Curating Things
ANTH 410	The Identification and Analysis of Historical Artifacts
ANTH 411	 Laboratory Methods in Archaeology ^H

ANTH 412	Paleoanthropology
ANTH 413 & 413L	 Laboratory Methods: Archaeobotany and Archaeobotany Lab
ANTH 414 & 414L	 Laboratory Methods: Human Osteology and Human Osteology Lab
ANTH 415 & 415L	 Laboratory Methods: Zooarchaeology and Zooarchaeology Lab
ANTH 416	 Bioarchaeology
ANTH 417 & 417L	Laboratory Methods: Lithic Seminar and Lithic Analysis Lab
ANTH 418	 Laboratory Methods: Ceramic Analysis
ANTH 419	 Anthropological Application of GIS
ANTH 420	Public Archaeology
ANTH/EMES 421	Archaeological Geology
ANTH 423	Written in Bone: CSI and the Science of Death Investigation from Skeletal Remains
ANTH 425	 Public Archaeology Practicum
ANTH 454	The Archaeology of African Diasporas
ANTH 457	Perspectives in Historical Archaeology
ANTH/ENEC 460	Historical Ecology
ANTH/WGST 458	 Archaeology of Sex and Gender
ANTH 535	 The Archaeology of Health and Well-Being
ANTH 538	Disease and Discrimination in Colonial Atlantic America
ANTH 550	 Archaeology of the American South
ANTH 551	Origins of Agriculture in the Ancient World
ANTH 651	Identity, Memory, and the Afterlife: The Space and Place of Death
ANTH 674	 Issues in Cultural Heritage
ARCH 395	Research in Archaeology
ARCH 396	Independent Study in Archaeology
CLAR 50	 First-Year Seminar: Art in the Ancient City ^H
CLAS 62	 First-Year Seminar: Bandits, Barbarians, and Rebels in the Ancient Mediterranean
CLAR 115	 Life in the Roman Army
CLAR 248	 Italy Before the Romans
CLAR/JWST/RELI 110	 The Archaeology of Palestine in the New Testament Period
CLAR 120	 Ancient Mediterranean, Egyptian, and Near Eastern Archaeology ^H
CLAR 190	Special Topics in Classical Archaeology
CLAR 200	 Art and Fashion from Rome to Timbuktu
CLAR 210	 The Archaeology of Warfare in the Ancient World
CLAR 241	Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East
CLAR 242	 Egyptian Art and Archaeology

CLAR 243	 Minoans and Mycenaeans: The Archaeology of Bronze Age Greece
CLAR 244	 Greek Art and Archaeology
CLAR 247	 Roman Art and Archaeology
CLAR 250	 Who Owns the Past?: Archaeology, Ethics, and Politics ^H
CLAR 268	 Hellenistic Art and Archaeology (350-31 BCE)
CLAR 270	 Quantifying the Past: Big Data and Big Questions in Classical Archaeology
CLAR 374	 The Archaeology of Death
CLAR/RELI 375	Archaeology of Cult
CLAR 380	 Life and Art in Ancient Pompeii
CLAR 396	Independent Study in Classical Archaeology
ARTH 461	Greek Sculpture
CLAR/ARTH 464	Greek Architecture
CLAR/ARTH 465	 Roman Architecture
CLAR/ARTH 474	 Roman Sculpture
CLAR 475	 Provinces and Frontiers of the Roman Empire
CLAR/ARTH 476	 Roman Painting
CLAR 480	 Egypt after the Pharaohs
CLAR 482	 Art and Archaeology of Achaemenid Persia
CLAR 491	The Archaeology of Early Greece (1200-500 BCE)
CLAR 492	 Archaeology of Greek Sanctuaries
CLAR/JWST/RELI 512	 Ancient Synagogues
HIST 106	 Ancient History
LING 558	 Ancient Mayan Hieroglyphs
LING 560	Mesoamerican Languages and Linguistics
LING 561	Native Languages of the Americas
RELI 63	 First-Year Seminar: The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls

Total Hours	27-31
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^H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

¹ Courses that are cross-listed count under department in which student enrolls.

Additional Requirements

- Students are required to select courses from at least two of the participating departments (art, anthropology, classics, and religious studies).
- Students may count only three introductory archaeology courses (numbered below 200) toward their major. This restriction does not include courses used to fill electives in related fields.

- For transfer students, at least half of the coursework in the major must be completed within the curriculum at UNC–Chapel Hill.

Subject to the approval of the advisor for the major, students may count graduate seminars towards fulfillment of their major requirements. Also subject to the approval of the archaeology major advisor, field schools sponsored by Study Abroad or other universities may be used to fulfill the archaeological practice field experience requirement.

Special Opportunities in Archaeology

Honors in Archaeology

Students with a grade point average of 3.3 or higher are eligible to pursue a degree with honors. A student who wishes to take this track should identify and contact a faculty thesis advisor before the end of the junior year. During the senior year the student enrolls in a two-semester course sequence, ARCH 691H and ARCH 692H, which provides the opportunity to carry out an independent research project and write a thesis under the direction of the faculty advisor. Prior to registering for the honors courses, the student and faculty mentor must fill out a contract and have it signed by the curriculum's director of undergraduate studies. The thesis is evaluated by a committee consisting of the advisor and two readers. The advisor and at least one reader must be members of the Curriculum in Archaeology's faculty. A student who successfully completes the thesis may be awarded honors or highest honors by the committee. Highest honors is awarded only in cases where the thesis is judged to be exceptional in comparison to other such works.

Research Laboratories of Archaeology

Founded in 1939, the Research Laboratories of Archaeology (RLA) was the first center for the study of North Carolina archaeology. Serving the interests of students, scholars, and the general public, it is currently one of the leading institutes for archaeological teaching and research in the South. Located within the College of Arts and Sciences, it provides support and research opportunities for UNC–Chapel Hill students working not only in North Carolina but also throughout the Americas and overseas.

Duke–UNC Consortium for Classical and Mediterranean Archaeology (CCMA)

The Duke–UNC Consortium for Classical and Mediterranean Archaeology represents a collaboration between the institutions in order to enhance archaeology curricula and concentrations in the respective departments and programs in archaeology. The consortium fosters an interdisciplinary dialogue on methods, theory, and practice in classical archaeology and material culture, providing students access to coursework, seminars, excavations, and other research opportunities; academic advising; and avenues for curricular and extracurricular interaction.

Experiential Education

The development of skills and perspectives beyond the classroom is considered central to the curriculum in archaeology. Hands-on training in field archaeology provides students with the basic tools not only necessary for graduate training and advanced research in archaeology, but also for careers in cultural resource and heritage management through government agencies, contract firms, and museums. Developing an understanding of context and physical environment in archaeology requires field and laboratory experiences that are impossible to teach effectively in the classroom. Excavation and laboratory experiences allow students to participate directly in faculty research and to learn firsthand important aspects of the research process. Two or more field schools in archaeology are generally offered during summer sessions through the

Study Abroad Office by faculty from the departments of anthropology, classics, religious studies, and history. In addition, many faculty research associates offer laboratory experiences through independent study projects and internships. These field work and laboratory experiences are designed to enhance the classroom training, allowing students to work as assistants to field archaeologists and specialists—such as surveyors, archaeological architects, palaeoethnobotanists, zooarchaeologists, biological anthropologists, and geomorphologists—learning firsthand various aspects of data recovery, processing, and interpretation associated with archaeological field projects.

Department Programs

Major

- Archaeology Major, B.A. (p. 1)

Minor

- Archaeology Minor (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/archaeology-minor/>)

Courses

- Archaeology (ARCH) (<https://catalog.unc.edu/courses/arch/>)

Contact Information

Department of Archaeology

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