

Program Overview: Minor, Archaeology



About This Minor . . .

The Archaeology program offers a minor in Archaeology that will prepare students for skilled employment as resource managers, academics, or in other fields. The introductory course sequence gives students a comprehensive background in archaeological methods and theory, as well as an overview of North American prehistory. More advanced topical courses address specific periods, regions, or methodological approaches to archaeological research, such as Geoarchaeology. Finally, students can gain hands-on experience by taking part in an ongoing research project where they will attain survey, mapping, and excavation skills. Students will have the opportunity to conduct their own research and present their results to a variety of audiences.

All CMU baccalaureate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning.

If you complete the Archaeology minor, you will:

1. be able to compare global and North American prehistoric sequences, learning about the “big questions” of human cultural evolution, such as when and why plants were domesticated and the development of ancestral Puebloan society in the American Southwest.
2. come to understand the ways archaeologists turn prehistoric material remains into evocative representations of past human lives.
3. take part in an ongoing archaeological research project analyzing the hunter-gatherer prehistory of Colorado’s western slope. You will gain experience in archaeological survey, excavation, and laboratory analyses and be able to handle and study authentic artifacts.
4. have the opportunity to incorporate what you learn in other classes to your archaeological interests, for example:
 - the study of human society from anthropology
 - remote sensing technologies from earth sciences
 - geographic information systems from geography
 - engaging with the public from history
 - the study of human remains from forensic anthropology

Program Highlights:

Get Well-Rounded

The Archaeology minor focuses on the western slope of Colorado and the southwestern US, yet continues to engage with contemporary concerns in the discipline at large.

Gain Experience

Contribute to an ongoing research project by taking part in survey and excavation at sites across the region. You can earn college credit at a field school of your choice. You can also present the results of your research at CMU’s Student Showcase or even a professional conference.

Get a Job

Gain the skills necessary for employment as an archaeologist with cultural resource management firms or university internship programs.

Have fun

Most everyone has some interest in Archaeology. Come see what all the fuss is about!



Program Requirements

A student must follow CMU graduation requirements by completing 120 semester credit hours, including 40 credits of coursework at the 300+ level. See the “Undergraduate Graduation Requirements” in the catalog for additional graduation information. Students should work closely with a faculty advisor when selecting and scheduling courses prior to registration. In general, CMU’s programs of study are based on two curriculum groups:

1. Essential Learning

CMU’s Essential Learning program provides the foundation of skills and information that cuts across all fields of study and the support for advanced concepts that students will later encounter in their majors. Before moving into work at the 300+ level, students complete the Maverick Milestone and its co-requirement, Essential Speech. This pair of courses is a capstone experience where students integrate what they have learned from their foundation courses by making connections among diverse areas of knowledge. The capstone is also an opportunity for students to work with disparate ideas, a critical skill expected of all CMU graduates that will aid them in solving the complex and unscripted problems they will encounter in their personal, professional, and civic lives.

2. What You Will Study in This Minor. . .

Foundation Courses

These courses provide you with broad overviews of Anthropology, Archaeology and the general sequence of prehistory across the globe:

- Introduction to Anthropology
- Principles of Archaeology
- The Emergence of Human Culture
- From Domestication to States

Topics Courses

These classes focus on specific areas or approaches to the study of prehistory:

- Southwestern Archaeology
- Colorado Archaeology
- Ice Age Archaeology of North America
- Geoarchaeology
- Historic Archaeology

Knowledge Application

These courses allow you to put into practice what you have been learning in the classroom

- Archaeological Fieldwork and Laboratory
- Cultural Resource Management

Electives (examples)

- Introduction to GIS and GIS Lab
- Ancient and Medieval Cities
- Introduction to Forensic Anthropology
- Human Geography

Careers

The Archaeology minor can help prepare you for a career in:

- Conservation Technology
- Cultural Resource Management
- Heritage Law
- Archaeological Fieldwork
- Museums
- Forensic Anthropology
- Geographic Information
- Historic Preservation
- Scientific Writing/Editing
- Scholarship