

ARCHAEOLOGY, CERTIFICATE

The Archaeology certificate is designed to help students develop the knowledge and practical skills needed to analyze archaeological materials and participate in archaeological field research. Students who complete the certificate, along with a BA or BS degree from UW–Madison, improve their competitiveness in graduate school applications and are qualified for entry-level employment opportunities in archaeology. In addition to providing a strong intellectual foundation in archaeology and hands-on experience in fieldwork, the certificate provides an interdisciplinary link to courses in three or more departments, exposing students to diverse approaches to the study of our global human heritage.

Ancient history is a puzzle made up of innumerable fragments—pieces of bone, pottery, stone, and metal; remnants of architecture and monuments; residues of food; and traces of other things. Archaeology is the field of study that provides the tools to discover these fragments and piece them together to reconstruct a picture of the ancient world and to illuminate the stories of past peoples. An accurate understanding of the past is critical for developing a better present and future.

Through their participation in the Archaeology certificate program, students gain an appreciation of the diversity of human societies and a fuller understanding of the cultural processes that have resulted in the way that we live today. Students explore the origins of subsistence strategies, trade, technology, belief systems, and conflict that are relevant to understanding the human condition in our modern world.