Graduate Study in Archaeology at Arizona State University

ASU is ranked as one of the world’s best archaeology programs

Our research is global in scope, with active faculty research on five continents. We span the range of prehistoric societies from the earliest hominids to prehistoric cities. ASU has particular geographic strengths in the American Southwest and Midwest, Mesoamerica, and the Mediterranean, with major research focusing on the origins of modern humans, the origins and spread of agriculture, the dynamics of societal growth and collapse, biocultural processes, and the development of urbanism.

Our 21 permanent faculty are theoretically diverse, yet share an overall scientific approach to the past. We offer a diversity of methodological training, from traditional artifact analysis to cutting-edge computer modeling.

While we seek to understand the human past, we also endeavor to apply this understanding to important issues faced today, including the interaction of humans and the environment, and causes and consequences of urbanization.

http://www.asu.edu/clas/shesc/

Archaeology is part of the larger Anthropology program at ASU, situated in the dynamic and interdisciplinary setting of the School of Human Evolution and Social Change. Within the school, archaeology students can gain experience in early hominid paleoanthropology, urban anthropology, and complex systems modeling to enrich their archaeological training. Many students also work with faculty and programs beyond SHESC in fields like materials science, Quaternary geosciences, social dynamics, urban ecology, and global sustainability.

Here are some reasons that the best applicants consider ASU for graduate study:

- With 21 full-time faculty in archaeology, we have one of the largest programs in the U.S. There are about 60 archaeology graduate students (and about 40 in residence), & faculty are heavily engaged with grad students.
- Our faculty stand out internationally for the quantity and quality of publications and external grants, most of which include the participation of graduate students.
- ASU grad students are active researchers and publish in the top journals (see below), and many receive external grants; as a result they do well in the job market.

Selected Publications by Current Graduate Students (from a list of over 60):


Permanent Archaeology Faculty in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at ASU

David R. Abbott (PhD, Arizona State U, 1994; Assoc Prof) Archaeology, community organization, ceramic analysis, large-scale irrigation management, quantitative analysis; Hohokam, SW U.S.

Brenda J. Baker (PhD, U Massachusetts-Amherst, 1992; Assoc Prof) Bioarchaeology, human osteology, paleopathology; N America, Egypt, Nubia, Cyprus

C. Michael Barton (PhD, U Arizona, 1987; Prof) Archaeology, hunter-gatherers & agricultural origins, human ecology, geoarchaeology, lithic technology, spatial technology & computer applications, evolutionary theory; Old World & western N America

Jane E. Buikstra (PhD, U Chicago, 1972; Prof) Prehistoric skeletal populations from the Americas, bone microstructure, social dimensions of mortuary behavior, forensic anthropology, paleopathology, paleonutrition, biological distance, biological impact of European colonization in the Americas, host-pathogen co-evolution

Christopher G. Carr (PhD, U Michigan, 1979; Prof) Archaeology, method & theory, quantitative analysis, ecology, death and dying across cultures, mortuary practices, worldview, symbolism, style, art; Eastern US

Geoffrey A. Clark (PhD, U Chicago, 1971; Regents' Prof) Old World prehistory, systematics in paleoanthropology, logic of inference, human evolution; W Europe, Near East, Africa

Steven E. Falconer (PhD, U Arizona, 1987; Prof) Archaeology, complex societies, urbanism & ruralism, ceramic analysis, settlement patterns, landscape change; Near East, Mediterranean Basin esp. Cyprus, Levant, Mesopotamia

Michelle Hegmon (PhD, U Michigan, 1990; Prof) Southwestern archaeology, social theory, socio-ecology, ceramics, gender

Keith W. Kintigh (PhD, U Michigan, 1982; Prof) Archaeology, quantitative analysis, sociopolitical organization, settlement patterns, archaeological data integration; SW U.S.

Kelly J. Knudson (PhD, U Wisconsin-Madison, 2004; Asst Prof) Bioarchaeology; Archaeological Chemistry; Residential Mobility and Paleodiet; Andes

Curtis Marean (PhD, UC Berkeley, 1990; Prof) Human origins, evolution and diversity, societies and their natural environments, archaeology, paleoanthropology, zooarchaeology; Africa, Near East

Ben A. Nelson (Ph D, S Illinois U-Carbondale, 1980; Prof & Assoc Dir) Archaeology, ethnoarchaeology, political transformations, especially in frontier contexts; long-distance exchange; Mesoamerica, SW U.S.

Margaret C. Nelson (PhD, U California-Santa Barbara, 1981; Prof & Assoc Dean Barrett Honors Coll) Archaeology, technology, land use, mobility; SW U.S.

Charles L. Redman (PhD, U Chicago, 1971; Virginia M Ullman Professor Natural History & Environment; Prof & Dir Global Inst of Sustainability) Urbanization; research design; human impact on the environment; public involvement; SW U.S., Old World (Near East & N Africa)

Rachel E. Scott (PhD, U Pennsylvania, 2006; Asst Prof) Bioarchaeology; identity; body & identity; social construction of disease & disability; mortuary practices; osteology; paleopathology; Britain, Ireland

Christopher Stojanowski (PhD, U New Mexico, 2001; Asst Prof) Contactor population biology; Native Americans; biocultural skeletal biology; quantitative microevolution; SE and SW U.S., Africa

Arleyn W. Simon (PhD, Arizona State U, 1988; Assoc Res Prof & Dir Arch Res Inst, Dir OCRM, Collections Curator) Archaeology, ceramic technology and analysis, quantitative methods; SW U.S., Great Plains

Michael E. Smith (PhD, U Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 1983; Prof) Mesoamerican archaeology, political economy of ancient states, urbanization, empires; Postclassic Central Mexico, Aztecs

Katherine A. Spielmann (PhD, U Michigan, 1982; Prof) Archaeology, ecology, craft specialization, exchange; N America

Barbara L. Stark (PhD, Yale U, 1974; Prof) archaeology, complex society; Mesoamerica

Sander van der Leeuw (PhD, U Amsterdam, 1976; Prof & Dir SHESC) Environmental archaeology, ceramic technology, theory, regional & interdisciplinary approaches

For more information: http://www.public.asu.edu/~mesmith9/GradAdmissions.html.

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Note: images in this document are from current and recent ASU fieldwork and lab projects. 10/15/2007