Anthropology in Practice

Oregon State

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Culture Matters but What Can You Do with a Degree in Anthropology?

As I grow closer to the end of my bachelor's degree in Anthropology, I am left with some questions and things to reflect on. For me, my road to get here has been long with many stops along the way. Though I do not fully know what I want to do with this degree, I know it is something that will help me in the long run. And that is okay. As someone who came into this degree with very little knowledge of it, I found that it was okay to not truly know. I learned along the way and found that having communication skills has been helpful. You got to know how to talk to different types of people in anthropology. Another helpful skill has been developing a writing skill, got to write a lot of papers for anthropology. Critical thinking is something that I had but I was able to refine that skill through my degree and that has been really helpful. Got to learn how to decipher data you collect in anthropology. If you do not have these skills, anthropology classes, at least at OSU, have been helpful towards working on those skills.

There have been a few things I wish I would have done though. I wish I would have spoken to my advisor more, asked more questions, and been more active in my college career. I would have liked more knowledge on certificates that are available through the courses and the school or maybe if needing a minor is helpful or not. As an anthropology major, people always ask, "what are you going to do with that?" and I wish there would have been more conversations on what you can do with an anthropology degree to help answer that question. These are things that I think back on that I wish I would either have done or spoken up about it. And it is hard to speak up for some people, and that is okay also, but you got to do what is best for you. For me, having a passion for learning other cultures and histories has helped me through this degree.

One resource that I have found helpful throughout my schooling has been the American Anthropology Association website. They have been helpful with how to cite a reference in the style of anthropological papers. There is also so much information on the website about what is happening in Anthropology at the moment and papers you can read as well.

One thing that I have learned that is important but have not been able to spend a lot of time doing is networking. This is something that will be able to help you not only in job searching but in your college career as well. I think this is something that everyone should practice, even though it may be scary at first. I know I need to work on my networking skills because I know it will help me in the future with my career and maybe even my personal life. And I think it will be helpful for you too.

Lastly, don't be afraid to ask questions, either in class or to your advisor. I know it sounds simple and easy, but it really helps. They are there to help you along the way and I just wish I took more advantage of that during my whole schooling career.