Requirements for the Inter-departmental Major in Archaeology.

Program of study: To be planned as early as possible with the program advisers, preferably before the end of the sophomore year, and no later than the beginning of the junior year. A minimum of 30 points within the major and 9 points of related courses are required for the major. No more than six courses should be taken from any one department.

Two Introductory courses: Think Like an Archaeologist (ACLG 2028)* AND EITHER The Origin of Human Society (ANTH V1007), OR The Rise of Civilization (ANTH V1008)

*NB If you take all three introductory courses in archaeology, one may be substituted for an upper level course to fulfill the requirements of the major.

Five upper-level courses (3000 or 4000 level) of which TWO should focus on different regions of the world, as planned in consultation with the program advisers.

Field requirement: Participation of four to six weeks in field projects with which Columbia University is affiliated, or independent study in excavation or other field projects, or under special circumstances, relevant museum internship/lab work. The school or project must be approved in advance by the Director of Studies.

Laboratory requirement: One laboratory course in archaeology or its equivalent in the field, as approved by the program advisers.

Capstone seminar: World Archaeology seminar (ANTH V3993, taught alternate years in Spring semester), preferably taken in the junior or senior year. OR a substitute seminar to be decided with the advance approval of the director of undergraduate studies. Students who are writing a thesis may substitute a thesis seminar for this requirement.

Related courses: 9 points, to be planned with the program advisers in accordance with the student’s interests.

Senior thesis: Recommended for students planning to continue for a graduate degree. Topics should be discussed with a faculty adviser during the junior year, allowing time for planning, research, and travel during the following summer. In the senior year, the student may register for a senior thesis course with their adviser (e.g., ANTH V3997 or AHIS C3997–C3998) to cover the writing of the thesis, which must be submitted by March 25.

Languages: Students intending to pursue graduate degrees in archaeology should be aware that a reading knowledge of two languages is often required as part of graduate study. Further, although language courses do not count toward the major or concentration, students are encouraged to acquire language training that is relevant to their particular interests in archaeology.

Science requirement: It is recommended that archaeology students consider introductory courses in Earth and Environmental Sciences, Environmental Biology, and/or Chemistry for their Core Curriculum science requirement.

Departmental Honors
Departmental Honors are awarded to no more than 10 percent of the graduating majors in any year. A grade point average of at least 3.6 in major courses is expected as is an honors thesis or equivalent project of high quality.

Upper level courses
Decisions about upper-level, related, or seminar courses should be made in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate studies and program advisers.