

Archaeology Degree – Course Selection Advice for First-Year Students

Are you confused about what courses you should be taking in your first year? You are not alone. This document is intended to help Archaeology majors navigate the various resources and understand the requirements. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the program's [Academic Advisor](#).

Resources with which you should familiarize yourself

There are two on-line resources for all undergraduate students to consult:

1. The [Academic Calendar](#): the Calendar lists the degree regulations and all of the courses that ever are offered within that degree, including any special requirements to enter a specific course. Your course planning needs to take into account both the [University degree requirements](#), as well as program requirements.
2. The [Timetable](#): The timetable lists those that are offered this year (since not all courses that are listed in the Academic Calendar are offered every year), as well as when each lecture, seminar, lab, etc., is scheduled to take place and where. A different version of this timetable is linked to your registration system within MyTrent along with your timetable-builder, but this website is handy for seeing at a glance what is available, checking that the classroom location has not changed in the lead-up to the start of class, and more.

Until you get used to the system, those resources may be confusing. Here are some basics.

The Archaeology Degrees: An Overview

Your course selection will depend upon which degree you are pursuing. We offer both a B.A. and a B.Sc. in Archaeology. If you applied to Trent for one, but later decide that you prefer the other, you may switch your major in your MyTrent system, without needing to seek anyone's permission. You may also switch into an Archaeology degree from an entirely different major.

- *Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree*: we offer both a [single-major Honours program](#), in which Archaeology would be your main focus, and a [joint-major Honours program](#), where you would divide your focus between Archaeology and another program that Trent offers). Please note that it is not possible to pursue a joint-major in Archaeology and Anthropology, since there is too much overlap in the courses between those two programs.
- *Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree*: we offer a [single-major Honours program](#).

If you are specifically interested in environmental archaeology or Mediterranean archaeology (primarily, though not exclusively, Greek and Roman archaeology), you can add a "Specialization" in either area to your degree by taking certain courses (see the Archaeology section in the Calendar for details).

FAQ: Which degree should I pursue? Will one position me better for graduate school or a job?

Answer: Both degrees have been designed with the academic breadth and practical training that

we seek in our own graduate students and that our professional colleagues value in employees. Both degrees involve many of the same courses, in a combination of classroom-style learning and hands-on experience. Most universities do not offer a program dedicated to archaeology, so by choosing either of our degrees you are already indicating greater focus on that field of study than most undergraduates can achieve elsewhere.

The choice between the B.A. and B.Sc. depends more on your own personality and abilities. The B.A. is a good, all-round archaeology degree that suits most students; it is also suited to those who wish to specialize in cultures of a specific area. The B.Sc. is aimed at those who have an aptitude for science courses (biology, chemistry, and physics) and are interested in scientific applications of archaeology, such as environmental archaeology and the analysis of human, faunal, or floral remains. The various sub-disciplines of archaeology need both types of individual, so one degree is not better assurance of a job than the other.

Selecting Courses for First Year

Full-time students usually take five courses per term during the Fall and Winter terms, for a total of 10.0 credits. Most courses last one term and are worth 0.5 credit each, designated by a course code ending in H (e.g., ANTH 1030H). A course that carries the work equivalent of two terms is worth 1.0 credit and is designated by a course code ending in Y. For example, our third-year summer field courses (ANTH 3000Y and 3850Y) are worth 1.0 credit each, since they are intensive, compressed courses.

At the first-year level for both the B.A. and the B.Sc. degrees in Archaeology, the only required course specifically on archaeology is ANTH-AHCL 1030H (*Archaeology I: Accessing the Past*), although the B.Sc. requires other subjects (see below). If you would like to take more courses with archaeological content as first-year electives, we also offer the following:

- ANTH 1001H (*General Anthropology*)
- ANTH-AHCL 1200H (*The Trojan War: An Epic of Archaeology*)

Language Considerations:

- If you think that you may want to specialize in Greek or Roman archaeology, enrol in Greek and/or Latin language courses (see the listing in the Calendar for the 'Ancient Greek & Roman Studies' program). Both languages are required for qualifying for most graduate schools in those specific sub-disciplines.
- If you see your future in Ontario or Canadian archaeology, it may be useful to study an indigenous language pertinent to your area of interest (see the 'Indigenous Studies' offerings in the Calendar).
- Consider studying a modern language (French, Spanish, German, etc.). If you are planning to make archaeology your profession, you will need to be able to read relevant scholarship in another language; in fact, some graduate programs test for reading competency in at least one language other than English. Despite its specific name, the Department of French and Francophone Studies offers courses in several languages (check the Calendar for listings).

The course requirements for the B.A. and B.Sc. degrees differ, so we shall deal with each in turn.

B.A. Single-Major Honours Degree in Archaeology:

ARCH degree requirement - first year course:

- ANTH-AHCL 1030H (*Archaeology I: Accessing the Past*)
- The rest of your courses will be ‘electives’ and can be in any program that has open enrolment

University degree requirements to consider:

Neither of these requirements must be fulfilled in your first year, but many students find it convenient to take them as early in the degree as possible:

- at least three credits leading to majors in different disciplines, and
- at least 0.5 credit from the Approved Indigenous Course List in the Academic Calendar (in the 2020 version, it is on p. 16).

→ Using the on-line timetable to see which courses are offered and which term they are in, build your course selection as follows. This table is based on taking five courses per term; adjust that number to reflect your personal course-load:

Fall Term	Winter Term
ANTH-AHCL 1030H	[insert elective]
[insert elective]	[insert elective]

B.Sc. - Single-Major Honours Degree in Archaeology:

ARCH degree requirements for first-year courses:

- ANTH-AHCL 1030H (*Archaeology I: Accessing the Past*)
- GEOG 1040H (*Earth’s Physical Processes and Environments*)
- Choose 1.5 credits from BIOL 1020H, BIOL 1030H, CHEM 1000H, CHEM 1010H, or PHYS 1060H
- MATH credit is required; we strongly recommend MATH 1051H and 1052H (*Statistics I and II*)
- The rest of your courses will be ‘electives’ and can be in any program that has open enrolment

University degree requirements to consider:

Neither of these requirements must be fulfilled in your first year, but many students find it convenient to take them as early in the degree as possible:

- at least three credits leading to majors in different disciplines, and
- at least 0.5 credit from the Approved Indigenous Course List in the Academic Calendar (in the 2020 version, it is on p. 16).

→ Using the on-line timetable to see which courses are offered and which term they are in, build your course selection as follows. This table is based on taking five courses per term; adjust that number to reflect your personal course-load:

Fall Term	Winter Term
ANTH-AHCL 1030H	[insert elective]
GEOG 1040H <i>[verify which term]</i>	[insert elective]
0.5 credit from the list of BIOL/CHEM/PHYS courses	0.5 credit from the list of BIOL/CHEM/PHYS courses
0.5 credit from the list of BIOL/CHEM/PHYS courses	[insert elective]
MATH 1051H	MATH 1052H

If you follow the above table for the B.Sc., even before you have chosen your electives, you will already have fulfilled the University requirement for three credits leading to majors in different disciplines (0.5 ANTH or AHCL, 0.5 GEOG, 1.0 MATH, and another 1.5 credits in BIOL, CHEM, or PHYS = 3.5 credits).

Remember: if you have any questions about our program content, please do not hesitate to ask.

We look forward to meeting you in the new term!