

# Medical Anthropology Career Options

Specialist  Major  Minor  Co-op  Joint

Exploring career options involves researching **occupations** and **industry sectors** that fit your **skills**, interests, personality preferences and values. An *occupation* relates to the activities of the work you perform, whereas *industry sector* classifies the organizations that employ people in such occupations.

**Example:** “Medical Anthropologist” is an occupation that involves using critical thinking, active learning and problem solving skills to identify culturally specific beliefs and practices affecting health status and access to services for distinct populations and communities, in collaboration with medical and public health officials. Medical Anthropologists work in many industry sectors — particularly but not exclusively in the professional services sector. They might also work in the government, health and information sectors.

## Medical Anthropology graduates have many skills. In particular, they can:

Analyze the origins of cultural development	Investigate the spread of disease and its social causes
Apply theoretical principles to medical data	Study the alternatives to modern medicine
Communicate across cultures/languages	Understand interactions and group dynamics
Evaluate the impact of culture/society on health	Understand the social aspects of medicine
Examine the evolution of medicine and health	Use social and biological research methods



## With these skills in mind, how can I research my career options?

### Occupational Research

**Canada’s National Occupational Classification (NOC)** system categorizes over 30,000 occupational titles into 10 broad classes listed in **Table 1**. The 4-digit titles in **Table 2** are examples of occupations related to Medical Anthropology within these classes (NB: Some require further education).

**Table 1: NOC Occupational Titles** ([www5.hrsdc.gc.ca](http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca))

0 Management Occupations	5 Occupations in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport
1 Business Finance and Administration Occupations	6 Sales and Service Occupations
2 Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations	7 Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations
3 Health Occupations	8 Occupations Unique to Primary Industry
4 Occupations in Social Science, Education, Government Services and Religion	9 Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities

**Table 2: Sample Occupational Titles Related to Medical Anthropology**

0014 Cultural Resource Manager	4152 Social Worker
0314 Volunteer Services Director	4161 Health and Social Policy Researcher
0411 Health Services Director	4163 Market Researcher
0412 Community Development Specialist/Planner	4164 Public Policy Analyst, Multiculturalism Project Officer
1122 Management Consultant	4165 Wellness Program Co-ordinator
2172 Data Analyst	4169 Medical Anthropologist
3131 Nutritionist	5111 Health Librarian
3152 Community Health Nurse	5124 Fundraising Campaign Consultant
3413 Health Care Aide	5241 Medical Illustrator
4121 University Professor	6165 Health Care Consultant

### Occupational Research Links

The two excellent occupational databases below provide you with details about job prospects, nature of work, educational requirements, working conditions, pay and related occupations:

**Career Cruising:** [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com) (Access our subscription through your Career Centre Online account)

**ONet:** <http://online.onetcenter.org> (U.S. site)

### Industry Research

The **North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)** is a hierarchical industry structure that divides the economy into 20 broad sectors of activity listed in **Table 3**. **Table 4** provides examples of specific industry groups relevant to Medical Anthropology graduates.

**Table 3: NAICS Industry Sectors** ([www.statcan.gc.ca/subjects-sujets/standard-norme/naics-scian/2007/list-liste-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/subjects-sujets/standard-norme/naics-scian/2007/list-liste-eng.htm))

11 Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	53 Real Estate and Rental and Leasing
21 Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	54 Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
22 Utilities	55 Management of Companies and Enterprises
23 Construction	56 Administrative, Support, Waste Management, Remediation
31-33 Manufacturing	61 Educational Services
41 Wholesale Trade	62 Health Care and Social Assistance
44-45 Retail Trade	71 Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
48-49 Transportation and Warehousing	72 Accommodation and Food Services
51 Information and Cultural Industries	81 Other Services (except Public Administration)
52 Finance and Insurance	91 Public Administration (= Government)

**Table 4: Sample Industry Groups Relevant to Medical Anthropology Graduates**

5111 Newspaper/Book Publishers	8133 Social Advocacy Groups
5411 Law Firms	8139 Health Care Standards Agencies
5416 Consulting Firms	9114 Federal — International Development Assistance
5417 Demographic Research Services	9119 Federal — Health and Medical Care Programs
6113 Universities	9191 Foreign Government Services
6214 Community Health Centres	

### Industry Research Links

To learn more about job prospects in your sectors of interest, visit:

**Industry Canada:** [www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/company-entreprises.nsf/eng/home](http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/company-entreprises.nsf/eng/home)

### Career Links Related to Medical Anthropology

#### Professional Associations

Canadian Anthropology Society	<a href="http://www.cas-sca.ca">www.cas-sca.ca</a>
American Ethnological Society	<a href="http://www.aesonline.org">www.aesonline.org</a>
Society for Medical Anthropology	<a href="http://www.medanthro.net">www.medanthro.net</a>
Society for Cultural Anthropology	<a href="http://sca.culanth.org">http://sca.culanth.org</a>
Royal Anthropological Institute	<a href="http://www.therai.org.uk">www.therai.org.uk</a>
Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology	<a href="http://capa.fenali.net">http://capa.fenali.net</a>

#### Other Resources

AnthroSource	<a href="http://www.anthrosource.net">www.anthrosource.net</a>
Princeton Review: Career Profiles	<a href="http://www.princetonreview.com/Careers.aspx">www.princetonreview.com/Careers.aspx</a>
Anthropology Departments in Canada	<a href="http://anthropology.uwaterloo.ca/departments">http://anthropology.uwaterloo.ca/departments</a>
Anthropology Resources on the Internet	<a href="http://www.anthropologie.net">www.anthropologie.net</a>
European Association of Social Anthropologists	<a href="http://www.easaonline.org">www.easaonline.org</a>
University of Toronto Department of Anthropology	<a href="http://www.anthropology.utoronto.ca">www.anthropology.utoronto.ca</a>

### E-Journals Available through the University of Toronto Library ([www.library.utoronto.ca/utsc](http://www.library.utoronto.ca/utsc))

American Journal of Physical Anthropology	Anthropology and Humanism	Cambridge Archeological Journal
Anthropological Forum	Anthropology and Medicine	Medical Anthropology
Anthropological Theory	Anthropology Today	Medical Anthropology Quarterly

### Resources Available at the Academic Advising & Career Centre

Not sure how your skills, values, personality and interests fit your career options? Book an appointment with a Career Counsellor or sign-up for the *Discover Your Skills and Career Options* workshop via the Intranet. The Academic Advising & Career Centre has a very good collection of books related to career planning and job search.