

Arch/Phys Workshop: Finding Employment

GAINING EMPLOYMENT IN ARCHAEOLOGY

WHO EMPLOYS PEOPLE WITH A B.A. LEVEL BACKGROUND IN *CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGISTS (PRIVATE FIRMS)*

- types of work: surveyors, excavators, laboratory techs, illustrators (not fulltime)
- moderately well-paying seasonal work (like construction), dry season, snow-free season
 - if you have special lab or database management skills, you may be kept on
 - no benefits, only workman's comp
- permanent work with health insurance, etc., usually reserved for few, M.A. or PhD. level employees
 - business people: succeed by bidding low, meeting contract deadlines, getting job done
 - not teachers, expect you to come trained
 - if you show high reliability and competence, they may offer you further training

STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES, PUBLIC UTILITIES

- types of work: surveyors, excavators, laboratory techs, illustrators (not fulltime)
- State, Federal posts have specific application process, application forms. etc.
- check Web Sites, get on mailing lists, fill out basic form once (see NFS Web Page)
- some UCSC students have got "a foot in the door" by doing Passport in Time (PIT) volunteer work with National Forest Service, were invited to come back as seasonal workers, to apply for staff positions after B.A., etc.

MUSEUMS, ARCHIVES, REPOSITORIES: types of work:

- archaeological, ethnographic collection inventory, management (NAGPRA)
 - moderately well-paying temporary contract work
- repatriation (NAPGRA) related skeletal analysis
 - moderately well-paying temporary contract work

WHAT BACKGROUND DO YOU NEED?

FIELD EXPERIENCE (field schools, volunteer, amateur archaeological societies, geology courses, etc.): they need to know you really know what you are getting into: tedium, dirt, drudgery, etc., rather than golden idols and thrilling adventures

LAB EXPERIENCE (field schools, lab classes, volunteer in research labs, archives)

COURSEWORK:

National Forest Service GS7 requirements:

- History of archaeology (e. g. Anthro. 170)
- Method and theory (e. g. Anthro. 3, 172)
- Area prehistory (e. g. Anthro. 176A, 176B, 176C, 176D, 178])
- Lab Skills (e. g. Anthro 184/L, 180/L, 182, 183, 102, misc. internships 197, 197F, 198)

WRITING A RESUME [see sample]

- emphasize useful skills, not courses
- computer, etc.
- references: ask them before listing them; phone, fax, email: businesses phone or email

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WRITING A LETTER

- one page, BE BRIEF
- writing is a skill

ACTING PROFESSIONAL: INTERVIEW AND BEYOND

- punctuality
- dress/appearance (you may have to do fieldwork in rural and/or conservative areas)
- be patient and persistent (send out 20-50 resumes, expect to get a 5-10% response rate)
- be flexible: be willing to relocate to get a job

GAINING EMPLOYMENT IN PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

NOTE: THERE ARE NEARLY NO JOBS IN FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY!

- Central Identification Laboratory, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command
 - employees civilian forensic anthropologists and archaeological recovery specialists
 - M.A., M.Sc., or PhD. required

COUNTY SHERIFF'S, CORONER'S, MEDICAL EXAMINERS

- If you want to do forensic anthropology, be prepared to learn other skills to combine with skeletal analysis in a law enforcement or military-related job:
 - Forensic pathology (M.A., PhD., M.D.),
 - Crime scene investigation (Criminal Justice A.A., B.A., certificate of proficiency)
 - Archaeological crime or mortality scene recovery (B.A., M.A., extensive field experience (see JPAC/CIL above))
- Be prepared to have an advanced degree or certification (as above), then to volunteer/intern to gain experience and credibility

BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY AS A GATEWAY TO OTHER CAREERS

- Public health (B.A., M.A. in Public Health)
- Genetics Counselor (B.A., M.A. or M.Sc. in Public Health or related field)
- Physician, Nurse Practitioner, Registered Nurse (B.A. or B.Sc., medical degree, internship)
- **NOTE:** All require more basic science and/or statistics courses than required by an anthropology B.A. – be prepared to do these during the undergrad years or in community college later