Anthropology in the U.S. at the Pre-College Level

Anthropology courses at the high school level are typically offered in one of four formats: as traditional electives, as part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, through dual enrollment at local community colleges and public universities, and very rarely, as an online course. Through a rigorous search of state education websites and the IB public database, we found course offerings in 32 U.S. states. (We were unable to conduct a comprehensive search for non-IB course offerings at private independent schools, so those courses are not reflected here.)

To learn about the necessary qualifications for public high school anthropology teachers, we also looked at state teacher licensure policies. Endorsement requirements were divided into three categories: 1) Not Listed: licensure requirements for anthropology teachers are not clearly defined; 2) Social Science Endorsement: no anthropology endorsement is available, so an endorsement in another social science such as history, behavioral studies, or sociology is required; 3) Anthropology Endorsement: teachers must be specifically licensed to teach anthropology.

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