

Allison Petrie Weaver, AB 2007
Candidate for MPP, University of Michigan

Career arc

As an undergrad, Ms. Weaver interned with a political campaign in Missouri. She has also worked as a Strategic Planner at the St. Louis Regional Health Commission.

The relevance of anthropology

Anthropology has taught Ms. Weaver about the importance of community engagement and obtaining first-hand input from those affected by policy decisions. Anthropology can also provide a useful lens to understand the differences between official policies and on-the-ground practices and understandings.

Marketing anthropology

In Ms. Weaver's experience, some employers and managers understand how anthropology can be relevant to policy and politics. In social policy, people are more familiar with sociology as an area of study, and the leap from sociology to cultural anthropology is easy to explain and for others to understand.

Advice to undergrads, new grads

Ms. Weaver recommends putting thought into why you pursued anthropology and what about it makes you a unique candidate. She still gets questions about why she majored in anthropology, and she sees it a great opportunity to set herself apart.