

Liz Shane, AB 2007  
MPH 2010, University of Michigan  
Epidemiologist at the Wayne County Department of Health

### Current job description

Ms. Shane is the only epidemiologist at the Wayne County Department of Health in Michigan. Most of her day-to-day duties relate to communicable disease surveillance and outbreak investigation.

### Career arc

As an undergraduate, Ms. Shane interned for the Milwaukee Health Department, interned at a children's hospital interviewing people for studies, and she also worked at a health non-profit, focusing on smoking cessation.

### The relevance of anthropology

According to Ms. Shane, an anthropological lens empowers one to understand how social factors like ethnicity, income, and others can cause disease, and this knowledge applies itself very well to a health behavior or social epidemiology focus within an MPH program. She never felt unprepared or disadvantaged because of her anthropology degree from WashU.

### Marketing anthropology

In her experience, people in public health know what anthropology is, but you should emphasize that you have an understanding of medical anthropology or someone might assume that you only write ethnographies about foreign societies.

### Advice to undergrads, new grads

Don't settle for any opportunity that doesn't help you achieve goals that you want, always look to build relevant skills and gain experience that will be helpful later. Taking a year off between WashU and grad school is a great idea that can help you pursue your professional interests. She highly recommends Dr. Stoner as a professor and someone who has great knowledge of public health outside the classroom.

### Misc.

Don't be discouraged if you were a pre-med and you couldn't get through it, pursue your own interests and goals within anthropology