

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGY LABORATORY

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The Murray State University Archaeology Laboratory's mission incorporates four main aspects: training for archaeology students; curation of archaeological collections from western Kentucky; maintaining a library of Cultural Resource Management reports pertaining to western Kentucky; and conducting archaeological research.

All of the Archaeology Laboratory's projects involve MSU undergraduates, and often students from other universities and volunteers join the field projects. One of the strengths of MSU's program in Archaeology is that students can learn by hands-on participation in field and laboratory studies, often gaining more practical experience than graduate students in bigger, less personal university settings.

Training Students may enroll in ARC 304, Archaeological Laboratory Methods, for one credit hour per semester, up to a total of three credit hours. Participants meet as a group for one hour per week for workshops and directions. Each student also works 3 hours per week in the laboratory, supervised by the instructor. The student may arrange those hours as needed, in consultation with the instructor. After students have had at least one semester of ARC 304, they may conduct independent projects in the lab, under the general supervision of the Director.

Recommended text:

Sutton, Mark Q., and Brooke S. Arkush

2001 Archaeological Laboratory Methods, an Introduction. 3rd edition. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, Dubuque.

Curation The Archaeology Laboratory houses collections from MSU archaeological projects and accepts collections for long-term curation. Private collections may be accepted on a case-by-case basis, providing that they offer a resource for research and teaching and that we can assure adequate resources for their curation and protection. No collection will be accepted with any provisions regarding display, financial evaluation of individual specimens, or penalties for future unanticipated events. The determination of what will be accepted rests with the Director of the Archaeology Laboratory.

In order to permit accessibility for researchers and to hold down costs (and therefore fees) involved in long-term curation, we require minimal standards for the organization and packaging of collections deposited by professional archaeologists. For guidelines and fees, please contact the Director.

Access to the collections will be permitted to qualified researchers at the discretion of the Director.

Report Library The Archaeology Laboratory maintains a set of cultural resource management reports as a regional depository for the Kentucky Heritage Council. Qualified researchers conducting CRM projects are welcome to consult the collection. Contact the Director for scheduling.

Research The Archaeology Laboratory conducts research in western Kentucky and elsewhere. Students may become involved in ongoing field projects, such as the Archaeology Field School, regular laboratory processing of accessioned collections, and independent research under the supervision of the Director and other Department of Geosciences faculty.

The MSU Archaeology Laboratory also serves as the coordinating office for the Symposium on Ohio Valley Urban and Historical Archaeology and publishes the Symposium's journal, *Ohio Valley Historical Archaeology*.