

**Southern Illinois University**  
**Anthropology 496: Field School in Archaeology**  
**2025 Information Sheet**

The Southern Illinois University Archaeological Field School (ANTH 496) provides students with training in archaeological field methods through an intensive six-week course. The 2025 field school will be investigating 19th-century farmsteads in the Shawnee National Forest.

**2025 dates: May 19th–June 27th** (We will not work on Memorial Day, May 26.)

**Schedule: Monday–Friday, approximately 7:30am–4:30pm daily**

### **WHY TAKE A FIELD SCHOOL?**

An archaeological field school is required to work as a professional archaeologist or go to graduate school for archaeology. A basic knowledge of archaeology can also be helpful in other careers where you might encounter archaeological sites or artifacts or work alongside archaeologists (for example, while working in museums, public lands, or natural resources consulting).

Taking part in an archaeological excavation can be a fun and rewarding experience, but it is not everyone's idea of a good time. If you are interested in archaeology but not quite sure if it's for you, a field school is the best way to find out whether you enjoy the work. At the very least, it's an opportunity to take a class with no readings or formal exams that lets you spend six weeks outside.

### **LOGISTICS**

We will meet at the Stotlar Curation Facility (200 W Industrial Park Rd., Carbondale, IL 62901) every morning by 7:30am. Students are expected to provide their own transportation to Stotlar; SIU's bus system does not operate during the summer and there is no public transportation. Any student who is unable to arrange transportation to Stotlar should contact Dr. Matt Greer at [matthew.greer@siu.edu](mailto:matthew.greer@siu.edu) as soon as possible so alternative arrangements can be made.

Transportation will be provided to the site from Stotlar, leaving at 7:30am. We will leave you behind if you are not on time.

We will spend the full day at the field school site. Students must bring a packed lunch. There are several locations where we might be working on any given day, but all are in remote areas with no options for buying lunch.

At the end of the day, transportation will be provided back to Stotlar, returning by around 4:30pm.

If we are not able to work at the site due to inclement weather, we will spend the day processing artifacts at the Stotlar Curation Facility, so you should arrive at Stotlar on time regardless of the weather.

## **EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE**

As a field school student, you will be provided with a trowel, a line level, and a folding ruler that will be yours to keep at the end of the course. Other excavation equipment will be provided for use during the field school.

The following will also be available on site:

- Drinking water
- Powdered Gatorade
- Bug spray
- Extra sunscreen
- First aid kit
- Tecnu

You will be responsible for providing the following personal items:

- Lunch and snacks. A good rule of thumb is to bring twice the snacks you think you will need.
- Sunscreen
- Water bottles (ideally at least two liters). Expect to drink a significant amount of water each day. We will have water available for you to top up, but you should bring plenty with you to start with.
- Work gloves with cut-resistant palms (leather, rubber, etc.). Thin gardening gloves are not sufficient.
- A bag to carry your personal items

**Sturdy work or hiking boots must be worn at all times.** Open-toed shoes, soft canvas shoes, etc., are not acceptable for safety reasons. You should also wear long pants, and we recommend long sleeves and a hat as well. Bandanas are good to have. Everything you wear should be something you don't mind getting dirty!

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS**

We take student safety *very* seriously, and all reasonable precautions will be taken throughout the course. However, there are certain hazards inherent to fieldwork that you should be aware of.

The main health and safety concerns and our plans for mitigating them are listed below.

**Dehydration:** The weather can be warm in May and June. We will stay inside on excessively hot days, but otherwise we will be in the field all day every day, doing physical work. You will sweat a lot. Plan to drink about a gallon of water each day. You may stop working at any point to drink water. Instructors will do their best to remind you to hydrate and will encourage breaks throughout the day, but ultimately you are responsible for ensuring that you are drinking enough to avoid dehydration. Extra drinking water and powdered Gatorade mix will be provided at the site. You may also want to consider eating foods with high water content (fruits and vegetables) and/or high salt content (chips, pickles, etc.—to help replenish electrolytes).

**Tick and insect bites:** Insect bites are a common nuisance. Tick bites are more concerning as ticks can carry a number of diseases. Bug repellent containing DEET will be available to

everyone on site to help prevent bites. Other precautions to take include wearing clothing that covers your arms and legs, showering as soon as possible when you get home in the afternoon, and checking your entire body for ticks daily. Should you get a tick bite, don't panic, but be alert to the possibility of developing any symptoms of illness over the next couple of weeks, particularly a fever or a bullseye-shaped rash. This is unlikely, but if it happens you should see a doctor and tell them you recently had or may have had a tick.

**Poison ivy:** Contact with poison ivy causes an itchy rash. Some people are more sensitive to it than others. If you know or suspect you were exposed to poison ivy, using Tecnu within a few hours can help to remove the oils that cause the rash, preventing the reaction and also preventing you from spreading the oils further. We will have Tecnu available in the field. We also recommend showering as soon as possible when you get home. Washing with dish soap can also help to remove poison ivy oils.

**Injuries:** Various injuries can happen during fieldwork, most commonly minor cuts and scrapes, bruises, and blisters. You will probably deal with most of these at some point during the field school. More serious injuries are possible but unlikely as long as you exercise appropriate caution while moving around the site and handling equipment. We expect you to take seriously both your own safety and that of those around you, and will not tolerate carelessness or horseplay. Instructors will not ask students to do anything that puts them at risk of serious injury, and students are encouraged to voice any concerns they may have at any time. **An updated tetanus booster is also strongly recommended before field school begins.**

There will be a first aid kit with basic medical supplies available at the site. In the event of a major injury, the student will be taken to the nearest hospital and the individual listed as their emergency contact will be notified if necessary.

### **Contacts**

Dr. Matt Greer (Co-Director, Instructor of Record), [matthew.greer@siu.edu](mailto:matthew.greer@siu.edu)  
Erica Moses (Co-Director), [erica.moses@siu.edu](mailto:erica.moses@siu.edu)

## **SIU Field School in Archaeology 2025 Cost Breakdown and Registration Information**

### **Tuition**

The field school is a 6-credit course. Tuition costs \$1,929 for undergraduates and \$2,817 for graduate students. SIU charges the same tuition rate for both in-state and out-of-state students.

### **Fees**

There is a \$50 course fee for the field school. This money goes to purchasing and maintaining equipment used during the field school. Every student will receive a trowel, line level, and a folding ruler paid for by the course fee.

There will likely also be a separate fee to help cover transportation costs. This amount has yet to be determined but will be communicated to students as soon as possible.

This is an off-campus course, so students are not charged SIU's General Student Fee.

There is no application fee for the field school itself, but non-SIU students must apply to be admitted to SIU as visiting students for the summer term, for which there is an application fee of \$40. See <https://siu.edu/admissions/> for more information.

### **Housing**

Students are responsible for securing their own housing. Summer housing is available on campus at SIU at a cost of \$28 per night. More details and a housing application can be found [here](#). Space is limited, so it is recommended that students apply for campus housing as soon as they register for the course. Students at risk of housing insecurity may be able to get assistance through SIU's [Heroes Program](#). Any student who is struggling to find housing should contact Dr. Matt Greer at [matthew.greer@siu.edu](mailto:matthew.greer@siu.edu).

### **How to Register**

Instructor approval is required. Student wishing to take the field school must contact Dr. Matt Greer at [matthew.greer@siu.edu](mailto:matthew.greer@siu.edu) for approval. Please provide a statement of interest that briefly describes your background in anthropology/archaeology as well as why you wish to take the course.

#### *SIU Students*

Current SIU students may register as soon as registration for summer courses opens and they have obtained instructor approval. Once approved, it is highly recommended that you register as soon as possible.

#### *Non-SIU Students*

Students who are not already enrolled at SIU first need to be admitted as visiting students. You should contact Dr. Greer before applying to ensure you will be granted approval to register for the course upon acceptance to the university. We advise beginning the process as early as possible to make sure everything is in order before the field school begins.