

Dr. Andrew T. Ozga, PhD is originally from the Chicago suburbs and attended undergraduate at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Originally interested in osteology and paleopathology, Andrew completed a senior thesis on vertebral arthritis in an almshouse population cemetery from the turn of the century. He continued this work during his Masters at Ball State University completing an MA with a focus in anthropology. He continued onto a PhD at the University of Oklahoma where he shifted to working with microbiomes from traditional populations in North and South America. During this time, he was also trained in ancient DNA research and completed his PhD while he was also employed as a research assistant. He accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute of Human Origins at Arizona State University where he focused on host and microbial genetic variation in chimpanzees in Africa, specifically Gombe National Park. He continued with a second postdoctoral appointment at the Center for Evolution and Medicine at ASU before accepting a faculty position at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Since 2019, Andrew has held a faculty position within the Department of Biological Sciences at NSU. He expanded his research focus to include modern human oral microbiome variation in South Florida and microbiome diversity within invasive species such as the green iguana and cane toad but also species level variation among wild sharks off the coast of Fort Lauderdale. He currently teaches four different undergraduate courses and two graduate courses along with mentoring students at both the BS and MS levels (he designed a course himself at both the undergrad and grad level). He is active in the field of research related to microbiomes in humans, non-human primates, and various animals. His overarching research interest is how oral microbes have evolved over time within their host organisms and the manner by which they contribute to overall health. Andrew is also interested in attending concerts, playing guitar, rock climbing, and tennis.