

# ANTHROPOLOGY

## Degree Requirements

### Master of Arts (M.A.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

A minimum of 30 credits at the 400, 500, 600, or 800 level is required, with least 18 credits at the 500 and 600 level, combined. 600 level credits are taken by students completing a thesis, students completing a scholarly paper must have at least 18 credits at the 500 level. All Master's students are required to take the following:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
<i>Core Theory Seminars</i>		
ANTH 560	Ecology, Evolution, and Human Behavior	3
ANTH 571	Principles of Human Evolutionary Biology	3
ANTH 588	Method and Theory in Archaeology	3
<i>Literature Review Seminar</i>		
ANTH 541	Current Literature in Integrative Anthropology	2
<b>Culminating Experience</b>		
ANTH 600	Thesis Research	
or ANTH 596	Individual Studies	

Students can choose to complete a thesis or a scholarly paper as the culminating experience for the degree. Students who choose to complete a thesis must take a minimum of 6 thesis research credits (ANTH 600). The thesis must be accepted by the advisers and/or committee members, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School. Students in the non-thesis track must complete 18 credits at the 500 level, and must write a satisfactory scholarly paper, while enrolled in ANTH 596.

Additional course work is tailored to the student's research interests after advance consultation with their adviser, and specific courses may be required by the adviser depending on the student's background and research plans.

### Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

The doctoral degree in Anthropology requires a minimum of 30 credits, 27 of which are required coursework and 3 credits of which are electives. All first-year Ph.D. students are required to register for 9-12 credits per semester and complete 15 credits of course work, including the three core theory seminars (ANTH 560, ANTH 571, ANTH 588) and two research method seminars (ANTH 572, and ANTH 573). The core method and theory courses will serve as the basis for the Ph.D. qualifying exam, which will take place at the end of the first year.

In the fall of the second year, all students in the Ph.D. program should enroll for a total of 9-12 credits per semester, including ANTH 509. ANTH 508, Visualizing Anthropological Data, is required for all Ph.D. students and may be taken at any point in the first two years. Students without suitable preparation in statistics may also be required to take a course at the 400 or 500 level at the adviser's discretion. A student's

Ph.D. committee can require additional course work depending on the student's background and research plans.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
ANTH 508	Visualizing Anthropological Data <sup>1</sup>	3
ANTH 509	Proposal Writing	3
ANTH 541	Current Literature in Integrative Anthropology <sup>2</sup>	6
ANTH 560	Ecology, Evolution, and Human Behavior	3
ANTH 571	Principles of Human Evolutionary Biology	3
ANTH 572	Research Design in Integrative Anthropology	3
ANTH 573	Anthropology Research Practicum	3
ANTH 588	Method and Theory in Archaeology	3

<sup>1</sup> ANTH 508 is required for all Ph.D. students and may be taken at any point in the first two years.

<sup>2</sup> All Ph.D. students are required to enroll in a one-unit literature review seminar (ANTH 541), for one credit each semester during the first six semesters of study.

A student's Ph.D. committee can require reading knowledge and/or demonstrated working knowledge of a foreign language, specialized training in linguistics, or training in computer programming languages, depending on the student's research interests. This will be determined shortly after the committee is formed.

For the Ph.D. degree, students must conduct significant original research that demonstrates the student's mastery of the field. The Ph.D. requirements include successful completion of course work as stipulated by the department and Ph.D. committee, passing the qualifying exam, preparing a dissertation proposal, successfully passing the comprehensive exam/dissertation proposal defense, and writing and defending the subsequent dissertation. The dissertation must be accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School, and the student must pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense).