

A Guide to Graduate Study in Anthropology at the University of Idaho

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Please retain our guide and refer to it during your graduate career.

Introduction

The University of Idaho's Department of Sociology/Anthropology/Justice Studies offers a Master of Arts degree in Anthropology. This program includes class work, seminars, directed studies, independent research, a thesis, and a combined final oral exam and thesis defense. The curriculum provides sound training in general anthropology, archaeology, physical anthropology, and ethnology. Department research specialties include historical archaeology, prehistoric Plateau archaeology, archaeological conservation and stabilization, Plateau Indian ethnography, contemporary American culture, human evolution, and indigenous peoples of South America.

Admission

Applicants to our program must hold a Bachelor's degree, with a 3.0 overall GPA, from an accredited college or university. An undergraduate major in Anthropology is not required, but students who otherwise meet eligibility requirements but who do not have sufficient background in anthropology will be required to complete additional undergraduate coursework. The number of classes will vary with the degree of deficiency and the student's demonstrated potential for academic work.

Students with marginal qualifications may be admitted on provisional status or may be advised to complete a year of undergraduate study in anthropology before being considered for the Master's program. Students with an overall GPA between 2.81 and 2.99 will be considered for provisional status if their grades in upper division classes average a 3.0 or better. Students who do not have the required GPA but who have strong recommendations or acceptable professional experience may be considered for the program after completing 12 credit hours of post baccalaureate study in upper division graduate anthropology courses with A or B grades.

Applications, along with a statement of purpose and three letters of recommendation, should be submitted to the University Admissions office at least four months before the intended starting date. Completed applications are reviewed by the anthropology faculty who evaluate the application and recommend that the College of Graduate Studies either admit or not admit an applicant to the program. Applications submitted late in the spring semester or during the summer months might not be considered until after the fall semester begins.

The Master of Arts Degree in Anthropology

Obtain and read the most recent requirements posted on the College of Graduate Studies web site <<http://www.grad.uidaho.edu>>. All of the forms, instructions, steps, and time elements are located there. Students must apply for admission to the Graduate School. Post-baccalaureate work taken before admission to the Graduate School will not appear on the graduate transcript and does not have to be considered by the department as graduate work. Candidates must fulfill the requirements of the College of Graduate Studies and of the Department of Sociology/Anthropology/Justice Studies.

Only the thesis option for the MA degree in anthropology is available. Course work will include either 30 credits plus a foreign language (or language other than the student's native language) proficiency examination or 36 credits and no foreign language requirement. Students who as undergraduates did not take at least one course in each of the four subfields of anthropology and a course in statistics will be required to do so (in consultation with an advisor) at the beginning of their graduate programs. In general, no graduate credit will be awarded for courses taken to satisfy such deficiencies. Graduate students must demonstrate competence in each of the four subfields of anthropology. The MA core, along with the

expected undergraduate preparation (or courses taken as deficiencies as a graduate student), are designed for this purpose. The core of the MA program consists of Anthropology 420, 510, 511, 521, and 530. Students who have already received credit for 420 or an equivalent will not need to retake it. Students who have received credit for 410, 411, or 430, or who have taken equivalent courses elsewhere, will substitute appropriate courses for 510, 511, or 530 with approval from their advisor. The remaining credits will be distributed among courses in supporting fields (at least 6 credits) and anthropology electives. Both the 30 and 36 credit MA program must include at least 6, but no more than 10, thesis credits, though more than 10 credits of thesis may be taken. A minimum of 18 credits must be at the 500 level. Anthropology courses must be at the 400 or 500 levels, while supporting courses can include 300 level. No more than 12 credits can be transferred from other institutions and an official copy of the student's transcripts from each institution must be on file in the Registrar's Office. Such institutions must have a graduate program and the work taken for graduate credit.

New graduate students must meet with an advisor within the first two weeks of the first semester and at least once each semester thereafter to design a program and to ensure that coursework is appropriate for the program. By the end of the second semester students must choose a major professor and two other committee members ("Appointment of Major Professor and/or Committee" form from the Graduate Studies web site). The major professor will then become the student's advisor (if not already). In addition to the major professor, one member is chosen from the department (not necessarily anthropology but in the department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Justice Studies or Washington State University's department of Anthropology) and a third is chosen from a related field outside the department. The committee may include additional persons within or outside of the department, but all must approve the thesis, sign forms, attend the exam, etc., possibly complicating the completion of the degree.

Students must arrange a committee meeting early in the thesis preparation to: 1) approve a study plan ("Study Plan" form from the Graduate Studies web site), and 2) approve the thesis proposal. The proposal should include at least a thesis outline (table of contents), statement of the problem, research design, and selected references.

If research involves human subjects, either on or off campus, students must first secure clearance from the University Human Assurances Committee <<http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/hac/>>. Research involving members of American Indian tribes must be cleared with the appropriate tribal governing bodies and the anthropology faculty.

Students will conduct thesis research under the direction of the committee chair but will keep other committee members posted of any major changes in the direction or research methods. Allow each committee member up to four weeks to review the final draft of the thesis. Since major changes in either the research or thesis itself may be required, it is highly recommended that the draft be submitted to at least the chair two or more months in advance of the desired oral defense date. This draft must include all figures, tables, etc., just as they will go to the Graduate School. Please read the Graduate School "Theses and Dissertations Handbook" and refer to the "Forms" and "Steps to Degree" links on the Graduate Studies home page.

The final oral exam is scheduled with the "Request to Proceed with the Final Defense" form after the student's committee members have given their approval to schedule the defense. Note: scheduling a defense does not mean that your committee has given final approval to your thesis. The catalogue states that the major professor schedules the date, time, and place. In reality, you arrange the date and time with final approval by the committee members. The oral exam, lasting 1 ½ -2 hours, will consist of a defense of the thesis, along with topics related to and arising from the thesis.

Before graduating, students must check the “Applying for Graduation” section on the Graduate Studies web site and complete the appropriate electronic forms. Students must file the application to graduate the semester before graduation is expected (see Academic Calendar for last day to file). The filing of all forms is the students’ responsibility.

Students must obtain the signatures of the Chair of the Department and the Dean of the College of Letters and Science on the “Authorization to Submit Thesis or Dissertation” form. The signature of the Dean may take several days to obtain and almost always results in changes. This form should be taken to the final exam, though depending on the outcome of the defense the form may or may not be signed at the time of the defense.

Students must provide a copy of the thesis, in a binder or box, to the Department Secretary and the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences at least one week before the final oral exam. Two final copies of the thesis must be provided to the Graduate School. These two copies must be unbound, on thesis bond, printed on one side of the paper only, double spaced (with exceptions), and all illustrations of high quality. Final copies must also be provided to committee members and the department. These need not be on thesis bond paper. For the final department copy, which will be added to the archives of the Laboratory of Anthropology, students must purchase an archival storage box from the department and should also provide a copy of the thesis burned onto a CD. Because changes in the thesis might be required after the final oral exam, final copies for the Graduate School and Laboratory of Anthropology should not be made beforehand.

Following the exam, the delivery of appropriate forms to the Graduate School is the students’ responsibility. The change of IP grades in Thesis credit must be made by the major professor.

Attendance at spring graduation is a matter between the student and the graduate school, though the department strongly encourages participation.

Enrollment is required for at least one credit during the semester that the final exam is taken. An absence of two years requires re-admission to the anthropology graduate program once degree work is resumed. Such re-admission is not a formality; it involves careful re-evaluation of all previous work and your continued suitability to be in the graduate program. Registration each semester is the student’s responsibility.

Compliance with all of the above procedures is required regardless of physical logistics during thesis completion. Do not expect the major professor to obtain signatures and turn in correct forms.

Graduate students should keep in mind that no course completed more than eight years before the degree is granted can be counted toward fulfillment of any requirement. An extension of this time limit must be requested by petition, and it is usually granted for one academic year after the request is approved. Requests for further extension have generally not been approved by the Graduate Council.

Anthropology M.A. course requirements Check Sheet

I. Course Deficiencies (generally do not count toward the M.A. credits)

A. For students without an undergraduate degree in anthropology:

Introduction to general or cultural anthropology _____

Archaeology _____

Physical anthropology _____

Linguistics _____

Other (as determined by the faculty advisor) _____

B. Statistics _____

II. Core Courses

Anth 420 Anthropological History and Theory _____

Anth 510 Research Methods in Anthropology _____

Anth 511 Human Evolution _____

Anth 521 Contemporary Issues in Anthropological Theory _____

Anth 530 Introduction to Archaeological Method and Theory _____

III. Anthropology Electives (500-level; 400-level if not offered at the 500-level)

IV. Supporting Fields (at least 6 credits, 300-level and above)

V. Thesis credits (6-10 credits) _____

VI. 36 total credits _____ or 30 total credits and a foreign language _____ (Language _____)

at least 18 credits in 500-level courses _____