Anthropology, M.A.

Graduate study in anthropology is open to individuals with varied undergraduate majors and training backgrounds. Ph.D. students are typically awarded a master's degree upon fulfilling program requirements at the end of their second year in the doctoral program. The M.A. portion of the Ph.D. program features course work across all four subfields of anthropology. Students also are strongly encouraged to conduct independent summer research, which is normally supported by departmental and other university-based funding sources.

The department also offers a terminal M.A. with a focus on cultural resource management—archaeology (CRM), which provides academic preparation for a professional career in that field.

For additional information, view the Graduate Program page and the current Graduate Student Guidebook on the Department of Anthropology website.

Requirements

The Master of Arts program in anthropology requires 30-36 s.h. of graduate credit, depending on a student's previous anthropological training. Students may count a maximum of 9 s.h. earned in courses outside anthropology toward the M.A. in anthropology. It is expected that a full-time student will complete all M.A. requirements by the end of the second year in the program.

Master's degree students who choose to focus on cultural resource management—archaeology (CRM) normally do not go on to earn a Ph.D. in anthropology.

By the end of their first semester, each student must select an M.A. committee, consisting of an advisor and two additional professors. Each year, students compile, in consultation with their advisor, the three strongest papers written for anthropology courses, conferences, or journals; an annotated bibliography; their current curriculum vitae; and a three-page narrative to describe their intellectual trajectory in the M.A. program to date.

Students must maintain an overall g.p.a. of at least 3.00.

Master's degree students who intend to earn a doctorate should consider taking ANTH:5110 Anthropological Data Analysis or another statistics course during their M.A. study.

General Course Work

M.A. students not pursing the cultural resource management—archaeology focus must complete core seminars in all four subfields (total of 12 s.h.).

Electives

In consultation with the advisor and committee members, a student selects a minimum of 18 s.h. of additional course work to complete the remaining semester hours required for the M.A. Elective work may include courses in other disciplines, directed study, and up to 6 s.h. of M.A. thesis credit for students who choose the thesis option.

Cultural Resource Management—Archaeology Focus

Most archaeological excavations and surveys are conducted as cultural resource management (CRM), so it is essential that all researchers who work with archaeological data and individuals committed to site preservation have a basic understanding of CRM. Students who select this focus area learn about the field and how to address related ethical issues as well as technical and theoretical challenges.

Students must complete the archaeological core graduate seminar. They also must complete a research paper, which is an archaeological study with a substantive data analysis directed toward an explicit archaeological research problem, suitable to meet the section three requirement for the Registry of Professional Archaeologist application form.

The cultural resource management—archaeology focus requires a total of 30 s.h., including 24 s.h. of course work and 6 s.h. of independent research or thesis credit.

Required Course Work

Both of these:

- ANTH:3240 Cultural Resources Management Archaeology: Practice and Practicalities 3
- ANTH:5201 Seminar: Archaeological Theory and Method 3

Area Electives

Two of these:

- ANTH:3243 Archaeology of the American Midcontinent 3
- ANTH:3257 North American Archaeology 3
- ANTH:3258 Southwestern Archaeology 3
- ANTH:3260 Pleistocene Peopling of the Americas 3
- ANTH:3265 Archaeology of the Great Plains 3

Technical Electives

Four of these:

- ANTH:3207 Animal Bones in Archaeology 3
- ANTH:3208 Archaeological Methods 3
- ANTH:3237 Politics of the Archaeological Past 3
- ANTH:3241 Lithic Analysis in Archaeology 3
- ANTH:3255 Introduction to Archaeological Ceramics 3
- ANTH:3256 Household Archaeology and Anthropology 3
- ANTH:3295 Field Research in Archaeology 3
Anthropology, M.A.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH:3305</td>
<td>Human Osteology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH:4620</td>
<td>Approaches to Geoarchaeology</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Independent Research or Thesis**

6 s.h. from these:
- ANTH:6005 Independent Study: Anthropology arr.
- ANTH:6010 Research: Anthropology arr.

**Admission**

Applicants for admission to the graduate program in anthropology are considered regardless of their previous field of training. Students without previous training in anthropology are expected to perform additional work as necessary to achieve competence expected for their degree objective.

Students normally are admitted under the assumption that they intend to pursue the Ph.D. degree, although the department does admit students seeking a terminal M.A. Students without an M.A. in anthropology devote the first two years fulfilling the M.A. requirements. After those requirements are completed, the student’s committee may award the M.A. with admittance to the Ph.D. program.

Students with an M.A. in anthropology from another institution may proceed directly into a Ph.D. program organized around their special research interests. If they lack any of the requirements of the graduate program at the University of Iowa, they are informed of those requirements when admitted. Acceptance of credit hours from other institutions will follow UI regulations.

Applicants for admission to the graduate program must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College.

Anthropology graduate program applicants are required to upload the following documentation to the University of Iowa Graduate Admissions online application:

- official academic records/transcripts;
- a brief statement of interest or intent regarding why graduate study in the Department of Anthropology is desired;
- three letters of recommendation;
- a writing sample (preferably a research paper);
- an application for graduate funding; and
- official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores from the Educational Testing Service (University of Iowa institution code 6681).

International students must send their official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores from the Educational Testing Service (University of Iowa institution code 6681). Once recommended for admission, international students must send a financial statement.

When completing Section B of the online Graduate College Application for Admission for Degree, applicants currently without a M.A. or M.S. in anthropology should enter "M.A." regardless of whether they intend to continue on to the doctoral program. Students at the M.A. level do not write a thesis, so "M.A. (thesis)" is not an option. This designation refers to the initial program students enter upon admission and in no way limits prospects for continuing on to the Ph.D. program. For questions about which degree option to choose, contact the Department of Anthropology.

**Financial Support**

Financial assistance, usually in the form of teaching and research assistantships, may be offered to doctoral and potential doctoral students in good standing for up to four years. Students making satisfactory and timely progress through the graduate program are in good standing. Eligibility for financial aid is reduced after two years in the M.A. program. The amount and types of aid depend on departmental needs.

Students are notified in writing of a provisional financial award before the semester or summer session for which the award has been granted. Although awards are made before the end of the previous semester, each award is contingent upon satisfactory completion of that semester’s work by the awardee.

**Career Advancement**

Graduates find rewarding careers in government, international affairs, conservation, economic development, public health, urban and regional planning, social work, museum work, and education. They might work to help resolve contemporary world problems by joining the Peace Corps, the Americorps program, or an international or domestic nongovernmental organization.