Anthropology, PhD

Requirements

The PhD leads to the accomplishment of professional-level skills in conducting independent research, and normally features specialized training in one or two of the discipline’s subfields. Doctoral education is guided by a PhD committee composed of members of the faculty competent in the particular areas and topics chosen by a student. Students must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.00.

The doctoral program includes an integrated process of progressively developing and completing reading lists, developing and submitting research proposals to funding agencies, developing and defending a dissertation prospectus, and writing two comprehensive exam essays. Upon successful completion of the comprehensive examination and the dissertation prospectus, a student advances to candidacy for the PhD. To complete the PhD, all doctoral candidates are required to conduct independent anthropological research, write a dissertation, and defend it.

For students who enter the doctoral program with an existing MA (in anthropology or a related field), the faculty develop an individualized program of study based on a student’s existing coursework and goals.

PhD students also may elect to pursue an optional concentration in either feminist anthropology or paleoanthropology.

For program requirements, refer to the current Graduate Student Guidebook on the Department of Anthropology website.