

Anthropology

The School of Social Sciences

Chair

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Degrees Offered: B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

The major in anthropology has 2 areas of concentration: cultural anthropology and archaeology. The focus in cultural anthropology is on contemporary theoretical issues. By reading primary sources, students gain an exposure to the styles of argument and reasoning of a broad range of theorists. They can then engage in the ongoing discussion and definition of central problems within the field. Fieldwork and ethnography are important in the doctoral research.

In archaeology, the focus is on research skills in the library, the field, and the laboratory. Most students also develop at least one analytical skill, such as remote sensing, archaeological statistics, osteology, or geomorphology, drawing on the university's extensive laboratory and computer facilities.

Students may organize a major in one or both fields or combine a major in anthropology with one in another discipline.

Degree Requirements for B.A. in Anthropology

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 18–20). Students majoring in anthropology must:

- Complete a total of 30 semester hours of departmental courses (10 courses)
- Have a plan of study approved by the undergraduate adviser

With department approval, students may substitute for departmental courses at most 6 hours of courses from outside the major that are related to their plan of study. The department recommends that students intending to pursue graduate study acquire a reading knowledge of 1 or 2 European languages.

Honors Program. Majors considering a career in anthropology should apply to the honors program, as should those who wish to include advanced training and an intensive, individual research project in their undergraduate education. Anthropology faculty determine acceptance into the program. More information is available from the department office; see also Honors Programs (page 32).

Degree Requirements for M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology

Because each field of specialization offers different opportunities for training and different research orientations, the department seeks applicants with a defined interest in either cultural anthropology or archaeology; an undergraduate background in anthropology is desirable but not required. Entering students devise a detailed first-year plan of study and provisional plans for succeeding years in consultation with an adviser. The plan should emphasize broad training in the selected field before the eventual definition of a project for dissertation research. For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees (pages 62–67).

M.A. Program. Graduate students may earn the M.A. only by obtaining approval of their candidacy for the Ph.D. For the M.A. as a terminal degree, students must complete:

- 30 semester hours of approved course work
- 1 of the 3 special papers required for the Ph.D.
- A thesis

Ph.D. Program. For the Ph.D. degree, students must accomplish the following:

- Complete 3 substantial papers, each emphasizing an analytical, research, and writing skill appropriate to their field of specialization (should be completed during the first two years of study)
- Demonstrate reading competency in 1 foreign language
- Prepare a satisfactory proposal for dissertation research, based in substantial part on field research
- Complete and defend the dissertation

Special Options. The department will arrange **seminars and tutorials** on any topic relevant to a student's training; these seminars may be conducted in supervisory consultation with scholars in other disciplines as well as with adjunct faculty. Students interested in the specialized field of **medical anthropology** may take advantage of the extensive resources of the Texas Medical Center through ties established with the University of Texas School of Public Health and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences; students may earn degree credit for formal courses taken at both schools.

Financial Support. All first-year students receive the same level of support: a combination of graduate fellowships and tuition scholarships. These awards are renewed for a further two years of study.

See ANTH in the Courses of Instruction section.