

Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures

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Graduate study leading to a Master of Arts degree in Applied Anthropology is offered by the Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures.

Admission Criteria

- A complete application for graduate study at MSU
- Official transcripts showing credits earned at institutions of higher education
- A 3.00 GPA on the last 60 hours of baccalaureate work
- A statement of purpose explaining why the applicant wishes to study anthropology at MSU
- Scores on the General Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Three letters of recommendation from people who know the applicant's academic ability and potential

A student who is admitted to the program without a bachelor's degree in anthropology and who has not completed the following will be required to take:

AN 1103	Introduction to Anthropology	3
AN 1344	Introduction to Biological Anthropology	4
AN 1143	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	3

These courses are not offered for graduate credit. A student who has not taken AN 6123 or its equivalent must take it for graduate credit.

A student enters the graduate program in the fall or spring semester. To be considered for admission, all application materials must be received by February 15 (fall admission) or October 15 (spring admission).

A request to waive the internship requirement must be provided in writing to the anthropology graduate coordinator by the graduate student. The request must give details of previous jobs and experience in applied settings, including length of each, employer, supervisor, and kinds of anthropology-related tasks performed. The student must arrange for submission of a letter from each agency or firm for which the student claims paid or volunteer work. Such letters must detail the kinds of work performed, the anthropological knowledge required, and must attest to the student's satisfactory performance of the work. This material will become part of the student's file. The waiver request will be considered by the anthropology graduate coordinator in consultation with other Anthropology faculty. If the request is granted, a signed copy of the waiver agreement will be placed in the student's file. Credit will not be awarded for waived internships.

Provisional Admission

An applicant who has not fully met the GPA requirements stipulated by the University and the Anthropology program for admission may be granted admission as a degree-seeking graduate student with provisional status. Such students must have as their initial objective advancement to regular status. Provisional students must receive a 3.00 GPA on the first 9 hours of graduate-level courses on their program of study taken at Mississippi State University (with no grade lower than a C) to gain regular admission status. Courses with an S grade, transfer credits, or credits earned while in Unclassified status cannot be used to satisfy this requirement. If a 3.00 is not attained, the provisional student will be dismissed from graduate study.

While in the provisional status, students are not eligible to hold a graduate assistantship.

Assistantships

Applications for assistantships must be completed separately from admission applications and be submitted directly to the Anthropology Graduate Coordinator. Assistantship applications may be obtained from the coordinator (contact information below). An academic writing sample is required as part of the assistantship application. Assistantship application deadlines are February 15 (for fall semester) and October 15 (for spring semester).

Academic Performance

Unsatisfactory performance in the program will result in dismissal. Unsatisfactory performance is defined as the failure to maintain a B average in graduate courses attempted after admission to the program, a grade of U, D, or F in two courses, failure of the oral thesis defense, an evaluation of unsatisfactory on the thesis, or any other failure of a required component of the program of study. Evaluation of graduate grade point averages will occur following the first two regular semesters of coursework and every semester thereafter.

Information

For additional information, contact the Anthropology Graduate Coordinator (DHoffman@anthro.msstate.edu). (dhoffman@anthro.msstate.edu)

Program of Study

A student may elect to specialize either in applied archaeology/bioarchaeology or in applied cultural anthropology. The program exposes students to proposal writing, consulting practices, and ethics.

The program focuses on preparing students for placement in the public and private sectors as cultural resource specialists, applied skeletal biologists, applied health scientists, and community and sustainable development practitioners, as well as preparing them for further graduate study.

Master of Arts in Applied Anthropology, Applied Archaeology/Bioarchaeology Emphasis

Archaeology field school ¹

Required courses		
AN 6123	Anthropological Theory	3
AN 6523	Public Archaeology	3
AN 8011	Professionalization in Applied Anthropology	1
AN 8013	Quantitative Methods in Anthropology	3
AN 8533	Readings in Archaeology: Theory	3
Technical elective graduate courses		6-7
Additional 8000-level coursework		6
Research		6
AN 8000	Thesis Research/ Thesis in Anthropology	
Internship		5
One-semester- or one-summer-long internship		
Total Hours		36-37

¹ AN 2516 Archaeological Field Methods: Survey: 1-6 hours, or AN 3516 Archaeological Field Methods: Excavation: 1-6 hours, or AN 3540 Archaeological Travel and Participation Program: 1-6 hours must be completed if the student has not had equivalent courses or field experience. Courses do not count for graduate credit.

An oral exam and thesis are required.

The emphasis in applied archaeology/ bioarchaeology focuses on cultural resource management. Specialty areas include the following.

- archaeological surface survey and excavation methods
- artifact analysis
- settlement pattern and spatial analysis
- environmental archaeology
- osteoarchaeology
- forensics

Master of Arts in Applied Anthropology, Applied Cultural Anthropology Emphasis

Required courses		
AN 6123	Anthropological Theory ¹	3
AN 8011	Professionalization in Applied Anthropology	1
AN 8013	Quantitative Methods in Anthropology	3
Elective graduate courses		9
Additional 8000-level coursework		9
Research		6
AN 8000	Thesis Research/ Thesis in Anthropology	
Internship		5
One-semester- or one-summer-long internship		
Total Hours		36

¹ Must be completed if the student has not had equivalent courses or field experience.

An oral exam and thesis are required.

The applied cultural anthropology specialization emphasizes medical anthropology; environmental anthropology, program assessment; mediating the impacts of development; and communication in multi-cultural settings. Ethnographic and qualitative research methods, as practiced in applied settings, are stressed.

Graduate Anthropology Minor

The department offers a graduate minor in anthropology consisting of 12 graduate hours including AN 6123. The minor is flexible in content and designed to complement the student's work in other fields. Courses taken for a graduate minor in anthropology must be taught by anthropology faculty. A student selecting this minor must include a minor committee member on his/her graduate committee.