ANTHROPOLOGY, PH.D.

The Doctor of Philosophy program is characterized by two distinct foci: 1) The Archaeology of Complex Societies, pertaining to the emergence and spread of early civilizations in the Americas; and 2) Biocultural Medical Anthropology, the study of the influence of social relations and culture on psychological and biological adaptation. Our goal is to produce PhD graduates who will have acquired skills that will make them highly marketable for both academic and applied positions. Besides a cutting edge, in-depth knowledge of theory and literature in their specific subject area, students will acquire necessary skills such as teaching and grading experience, statistical competence, familiarity with numerous computer programs, grant writing ability, and foreign language reading facility. Students will have conducted firsthand research in their specific emphasis. For archaeologists this will require knowing excavation and mapping techniques, artifact analysis, GIS (geographic information systems) and other computer mapping capabilities, and familiarity with museum cataloging systems. For biocultural medical anthropology students, the skills learned for their research will include interviewing, participant observation, research design, physical and physiological measurement techniques, as well as SPSS, Anthropac, and programs for qualitative data analysis.

The UA program boasts certain unique qualities that set it apart. One advantage is proximity to Moundville Archaeological Park, a world-class archaeological site. The Moundville site is owned by UA in an arrangement that is virtually unique in the nation; moreover, the site is only 17 miles from the Tuscaloosa campus. Additionally, we offer biocultural perspectives from cultural anthropology, biological anthropology, psychological anthropology, and public health.

The archaeological component of the PhD program focuses on the emergence, spread, and organization of complex societies. From an archaeological perspective, complex societies are the consequence of the transformation from hunting and harvesting to food production, from an economy that moves people to food to one that moves food to people. The social, political, and economic effects of this transformation produced social orders classified by archaeologists as chiefdoms, kingdoms or early states. At the time of contact with Europeans, complex societies were found throughout the Americas. Our archaeology interests center on North America (primarily the Southeastern US), Mesoamerica, and Andean South America, three areas of the New World where ancient complex societies evolved.

The biocultural medical anthropology component of the doctoral program examines the interactions between sociocultural and biological determinants of adaptation, especially regarding physical and psychological health states. Biocultural medical anthropology, a specific approach within the more general subfield of medical anthropology, strives to understand why people grow and develop as they do and why they may be at risk for health problems. Biocultural anthropologists attempt to use research findings for the benefit of communities, as well as care providers. It is part of the largest and fastest-growing subfield within anthropology and is increasingly relevant to research and training across a number of areas, from applied health sciences and transcultural psychiatry to epidemiology and community health development. The central feature of our approach is an effort to combine the biological and cultural aspects of medical anthropology. This biocultural perspective on health and illness is essential to the study of the topics in which the Department specializes: culture change and lifestyle influences on health, gender and mental health, and fetal and childhood growth and development, among others.

Admissions

The department of Anthropology only accepts applicants for the fall semester. The deadline for applications to the anthropology MA program is January 15. Applications must be received prior to January 15 for admission the subsequent fall semester. The earlier the application is received, the more likely it is that financial aid can be awarded.

Students will apply to either track of our PhD program (Archaeology of Complex Societies or Biocultural Medical Anthropology) with the intention of working with a specific advisor. The relationship with the advisor will be one of mentorship as the student moves toward a mastery of the craft of original research and publication and gains familiarity with the role of a colleague.

Admission to our PhD program is open to those students already holding an MA in anthropology or a closely related field and a small number of applicants directly out of their undergraduate studies who qualify for a direct-to-doctorate (DTD) pathway. Typically, DTD students already have substantial research experience. More than half of our PhD students will still come to us after completing an MA program at The University of Alabama or elsewhere. Please contact the Director of Graduate Studies to discuss which admissions pathway might be most appropriate for you.

Anyone interested in applying to either track of our PhD program is encouraged to contact the Director of Graduate Studies or Department Chairperson.

In addition to the minimum Graduate School admission requirements, to be considered for regular admission an application must include:

1. A statement of purpose that outlines, identifies, and explains the following:
   • One personal and one professional goal and how it relates to anthropology
   • A detailed, theoretically sophisticated discussion of prospective dissertation research grounded in the anthropological literature
   • Why the UA Anthropology program is best suited to help applicants achieve those goals
   • Two UA Anthropology faculty members who are suited to mentor the applicants
   • Any gaps or inconsistencies in the applicant’s academic record (it is acceptable to have them, but they should be explained)

2. Three (3) letters of recommendation from individuals (typically professors) who are in a position to evaluate the applicant’s academic potential to achieve the outlined goals

Students may submit additional supporting materials (e.g., a curriculum vita, writing sample) if they wish. These are highly recommended.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Curricular Requirements

For the PhD program each student must complete 48 credit hours in courses numbered 500 or above. No more than 24 hours can be transferred from an MA program to the PhD program. PhD students are required to have taken graduate-level coursework in at least three of the four subdisciplines in anthropology. Knowledge of quantitative methods and other advanced research skills must also be obtained through the required seminar ANT 601 Advanced Research Methods. Additional requirements include two core courses, specific to the doctoral track. Doctoral students are required to take 6 hours of ANT 698 Individual
Investigations, but no more than 6 hours may be applied toward the minimum coursework requirement. In addition to 48 hours of coursework, the degree requires a minimum of 18 semester hours of ANT 699 Dissertation Research, earned in accordance with the guidelines of the Graduate School.

**Archaeology of Complex Societies Focused Area of Study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code and Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANT 601 Advanced Research Methods</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANT 603 Theory &amp; Method In Archaeology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANT 604 Sem Archaeology Complex Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed Readings</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANT 698 Individual Investigations</td>
<td>1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective Courses</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sample courses listed below do not represent an exhaustive list. Furthermore, students are encouraged to consider relevant outside courses per approval of the student’s primary adviser and director of graduate studies. Subject to policies listed under Transfer Credit below, up to 24 elective credits may be transferred from a previously earned MA.

ANT 509 Ancient Maya Civilizations                  3
ANT 522 Archaeological Ethics                        3
ANT 525 GIS for Archaeologists                       3
ANT 526 Arch East North Amer                          3
ANT 527 Radiocarbon for Archaeologists               3
ANT 528 Analytical Archaeology                       3
ANT 534 Archaeology of Food                          3
ANT 543 Adv Field Archaeology                        3
ANT 545 Historical Archaeology                       3
ANT 550 Probs In Anthropology                        3
ANT 562 Ancient Andean Civilizations                 3
ANT 564 Paleoethnobotany                             3
ANT 621 Native Americans Ethnohy Persp               3

**Dissertation Research**                            18

**Total Hours**                                      66

**Biocultural Medical Anthropology Focused Area of Study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code and Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANT 601 Advanced Research Methods</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANT 610 Theory Method Medical Anthropol</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANT 612 Sem Biocultural Anthropology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed Readings</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANT 698 Individual Investigations</td>
<td>1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective Courses</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sample courses listed below do not represent an exhaustive list. Furthermore, students are encouraged to consider relevant outside courses per approval of the student’s primary adviser and director of graduate studies. Subject to policies listed under Transfer Credit below, up to 24 elective credits may be transferred from a previously earned MA.

ANT 502 Health Inequities                            3

**Dual Degree in Biocultural Health Promotion (PhD/MPH)**

In conjunction with the Department of Health Science in the College of Human Environmental Sciences, we offer a PhD in Anthropology / Master of Public Health dual degree program. This program blends excellent graduate education in biocultural medical anthropology with rigorous, applied preparation in public health education and promotion. We produce graduates versed in assessment of and engagement with health as a biocultural phenomenon, and trained to engage multiple levels of the social ecology of health. Admission to both the Anthropology PhD and the Health Education & Promotion MPH programs are required to pursue the dual degree.

For additional details regarding dual degree program requirements, please see the Health Education & Promotion MPH catalog entry.

**Transfer Credit**

Twenty-four (24) semester hours can be transferred from an MA program to the PhD program. The Graduate School has specific policies on transfer of coursework from other institutions, and, if the full 24 hours of transfer credit are not accepted, the student will have to complete additional coursework during their PhD program.

Graduate School information on Transfer Credit.

**Doctoral Plan of Study Requirement**

Graduate School information on the Doctoral Plan of Study.

**Comprehensive Exams**

Following successful completion of language requirements and prior to pursuing dissertation research, the student must pass an examination, the purpose of which is to determine the student’s mastery of coursework and theory and preparation for independent research. This examination will be designed in consultation with the student’s advisor and committee. The committee may require of the student the development and approval of a bibliography that provides the baseline literature on which the examination will be based.

Inadequate performance on the preliminary examination can mean immediate dismissal of the student from the PhD program.
Fieldwork Requirements
The degree requires that applicants experience substantial ethnographic or archaeological fieldwork. There are no specific requirements concerning the duration of such fieldwork, though it is expected to last from 3 to 12 months. Prior to beginning dissertation fieldwork, the student must have advanced to candidacy.

Admission to Candidacy Requirements
After a student has completed all coursework, fulfilled the foreign language requirement, passed their comprehensive exams, and passed an oral defense of the dissertation proposal, a recommendation to the Dean of the Graduate School for admission to candidacy for the degree will be made.

Students entering the program with an MA degree are expected to advance to candidacy by December 15 of their third year. Students who have not previously completed an MA degree are expected to advance to candidacy by May 15 of their third year.

Graduate School information on Admission to Candidacy.

Continuous Enrollment Policy
Graduate School information on Continuous Enrollment.

Dissertation Requirements
It is anticipated that the student will have applied to our program with the intention of working with a specific advisor. It is expected that the relationship with the advisor will be one of mentorship as the student moves toward a mastery of the craft of original research and publication and gains familiarity with the role of a colleague. The doctoral committee should be established by the end of the first semester. It will consist of no fewer than five faculty members (four members of the Anthropology Department and one member from outside the Anthropology Department), all of whom must be members of the Graduate Faculty. The outside member of the committee typically will be from a discipline other than anthropology. Under some circumstances, it may be appropriate to invite an anthropologist from another university to serve as the outside member. Approval for such action must be obtained in advance from the Director of Graduate Studies, and it is incumbent on the student and their advisor to complete the paperwork necessary to obtain a temporary appointment of the outside member to the Graduate Faculty of the University.

Prior to beginning dissertation fieldwork, the student must successfully pass an oral defense of the doctoral dissertation research plan. The plan, with the approval of their advisor, must be submitted to the committee at least two weeks prior to the date of the defense.

Upon completion of the dissertation research, the student must complete a written dissertation. The dissertation committee is best equipped to determine what format will best advance the PhD student’s professionalization, given substantial differences across and even within subfields. The adviser, in consultation with and with the approval of the dissertation committee, should direct the student toward a traditional book-style or an article-style dissertation consisting of at least three submission-ready journal manuscripts. The dissertation is subject to the final approval of the student’s entire committee.

The dissertation must be distributed to the dissertation committee at least 4 weeks prior to the defense, except under exceptional circumstances by agreement of the committee. Then, the student must successfully defend the work in the format of a presentation to the faculty. The date and time for this oral defense will be publicized at least two weeks in advance of its occurrence. The student’s committee will attend, as well as any interested faculty from the University community.

Time Limits for Degree Completion Requirements
Graduate School information on Time Limits.

Student Progress Requirement
All PhD students will complete and submit online an annual Graduate Student Activity Report (SAR). The form is a checklist of the scheduled requirements for completion of the MA and PhD degree, covers non-degree accomplishments such as papers published or presented, and includes space for a brief written evaluation and expectations for the following year. All MA and PhD students must submit the form to the Director of Graduate Studies annually by March 15.

The form will allow the Grad Director to compile and update a database to track student progress, identify students in trouble, and provide faculty with information for the annual review of student funding.

Additional Academic Requirements
Throughout the year departmental colloquia are held, including special presentations by anthropologists and other scholars from outside the university; presentations of current research by departmental faculty and faculty from other schools and divisions; and presentations of current research by graduate students. Attendance at departmental colloquia is mandatory.

Foreign Language Competency
A reading facility in one foreign language appropriate to the research topic must be demonstrated, either by successful completion of two semesters of foreign language coursework or by examination. The language is to be chosen by the student in consultation with their advisor. No graduate credit is earned for coursework in foreign languages taken to satisfy the language requirement (although the grade earned will still count toward the overall GPA). Language coursework taken prior to matriculation in the degree program will not satisfy this requirement, except in highly unusual circumstances and must be approved by the student’s advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies.

Academic Misconduct Information
Graduate School information on Academic Misconduct.

Withdrawals and Leave of Absence Information
Graduate School information on Withdrawals and Leave of Absence.

Academic Grievances Information
Graduate School information on Academic Grievances.

Scholastic Requirements
Graduate School information on Scholastics Requirements.

Graduate School Deadlines Information
Information on Graduate School Deadlines.

Application for Graduation Information
Information on the Application for Graduation.