

ANTHROPOLOGY (PHD)

Graduate School

Program Website (<https://anthropology.cornell.edu/graduate-program-anthropology/>)

CIP: 45.0201 | HEGIS: 2202.00 | NYSED: 17140

Graduate Field

Anthropology (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/graduate-school/anthropology/>)

Program Description

Graduate training in the Field of Anthropology emphasizes sociocultural anthropology, with an additional concentration in archaeological anthropology. Biological anthropology is primarily an undergraduate program. Substantively, the Field of Anthropology combines humanistic and social scientific approaches in innovative ethnographic research, emphasizing culture as a productive process and anthropologists as engaged in understanding and defending cultural diversity. Geographically, our greatest depth is in Asia (East, South, and Southeast), but the Americas, Europe, and Africa all also figure importantly. The Field of Anthropology has strong ties with all the geographic area programs, as well as faculty active in many other interdisciplinary programs, including joint appointments with Asian American Studies, Latina/o Studies, American Indian and Indigenous Studies, and Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

The graduate program in anthropology is highly individualized and interdisciplinary. Only four courses and a field research proposal are required; thus, the bulk of students' work in language, area studies, or other training is individually designed in consultation with the Special Committee. Individually-tailored examinations occur after approximately the first year of course work (the Qualifying Exam), the second or third year (the Admission to Candidacy, or A Exam), and after completion of the thesis (the Defense or B Exam). Most graduate students in the Field of Anthropology complete one to two years of intensive field research. All doctoral candidates are also expected to teach at some point: most students first get experience as assistants in both introductory and mid-level courses; later, many design and teach courses of their own in the Knight Writing Program. A vigorous colloquium series enriches the intellectual environment for both students and faculty.

The Field of Anthropology primarily admits candidates seeking a Ph.D. because of the lack of funding for, and employment with, only an M.A. With very rare exceptions, every student admitted to the Ph.D. program receives funding to support five years of on-campus study. Graduate students apply for additional funding from Cornell or from major external sources such as NSF, Fulbright, SSRC, and Wenner-Gren to conduct both preliminary and dissertation field research. Most students complete the Ph.D. within seven years and most have gone on to find academic employment at major colleges and universities in the U.S. or abroad.

Concentrations

- Archaeological anthropology
- Socio-cultural anthropology

Program Information

- Instruction Mode: In Person
- Location: Ithaca, NY

Program Requirements

- Minimum Semesters for Degree: 12

Graduate School Milestones

- Responsible Conduct of Research Training: Required
- Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID): Required
- Student Progress Reviews (SPR) begin: Second Year
- Examination for admission to candidacy (A Exam): Spring of third year
- Defense of Dissertation (B Exam): Fourteenth semester; may petition for extension beyond fourteenth semester, requires full support of Special Committee and Director of Graduate Studies. Petitions are made for an extension of one semester at a time.

Field Specific Milestones

- Qualifying Examination (Q Exam): Second semester
- Special Committee formed by the end of the first year
- Students are expected to gain active teaching experience before being awarded their PhD

Course Requirements

The Graduate Field of Anthropology suggests the following courses, but requirements are set by the student's Special Committee.

Year 1

ANTHR 6020 History of Anthropological Thought

ANTHR 6025 Proseminar in Anthropology

ANTHR 7900 Department of Anthropology Colloquium

Year 2

- Research Methods course
- Proposal and Design Development Course
- Coursework determined in collaboration with the student's Special Committee is usually completed in the first three years.

University Graduation Requirements Requirements for All Students

In order to receive a Cornell degree, a student must satisfy academic and non-academic requirements.

Academic Requirements

A student's college determines degree requirements such as residency, number of credits, distribution of credits, and grade averages. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the specific major, degree, distribution, college, and graduation requirements for completing their chosen program of study. See the individual requirements listed by each college or school or contact the college registrar's office (<https://registrar.cornell.edu/service-resources/college-registrar-directory/>) for more information.

Non-academic Requirements

Conduct Matters. Students must satisfy any outstanding sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed or agreed to under the Student Code of Conduct (Code) or Policy 6.4. Where a formal complaint under the Code or Policy 6.4 is pending, the University will withhold awarding a degree otherwise earned until the adjudication process set forth in those procedures is complete, including the satisfaction of any sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed.

Financial Obligations. Outstanding financial obligations will not impact the awarding of a degree otherwise earned or a student's ability to access their official transcript. However, the University may withhold issuing a diploma until any outstanding financial obligations owing to the University are satisfied.

Learning Outcomes

- Make an original, substantial, and publishable contribution to Anthropology:
 - Identify and pursue new research opportunities within one's field
 - Think originally and independently to develop concepts and methods
- Demonstrate advanced Anthropological research skills:
 - Create new knowledge through the generation, analysis, and synthesis of primary and secondary source materials
 - Identify and access appropriate sources of relevant information
 - Critically analyze and evaluate one's own findings and those of others
 - Master application of relevant research methods, technical skills, and languages
- Demonstrate commitment to advancing Anthropological scholarship:
 - Show understanding of the history of Anthropology and the development of current theoretical debates
 - Keep abreast of current advances within one's field and related areas
 - Show commitment to professional development through engagement in professional societies, publication, applied, and/or outreach activities
 - Teach effectively by presenting and disseminating knowledge in the field to students, professionals, and members of the public
- Demonstrate professional skills:
 - Adhere to ethical standards of the discipline for using sources, artifacts, and remains; interacting with human subjects; and working with colleagues;
 - Write and speak effectively to professional and lay audiences about issues in the field
 - Actively compete for major intramural and extramural research grants