

**Anthropology Department Graduate Program Learning Goals
Skills and Competencies
September 2017**

Introduction

Anthropology studies human biological and cultural diversity through time and space and the interplay between culture and biology. It encompasses our closest relatives and the human experience from our earliest known bipedal ancestors to the contemporary world, from the smallest human groups to empires and multinational corporations.

Anthropologists explore the lives of prehistoric, historic, and contemporary peoples and address such topics as human evolution, subsistence and settlement systems, family, urban development, health, transnationalism, globalization, social conflict, gender, symbolic systems, and human ecology. Anthropologists apply the knowledge gained from diverse theoretical perspectives to practical human problems in settings such as medical care, educational development, and natural and cultural resource management. As scholars, we are committed to the highest quality teaching in the classroom and the field; to ongoing research both in Portland and abroad; and to active engagement in wider university and community programs.

The graduate curriculum in Anthropology is designed to develop an understanding of human life from these various perspectives. It does this by providing graduate level overviews of three subfields of the discipline in the Graduate Core Seminars (Anth 511, 550, and 570). Students specialize in an area, developing professional competency in one or more of the subfields of biological anthropology, archaeology, or socio-cultural anthropology. During five terms of course-work, students take classes in anthropology and other disciplines related to their fields of study, learning content as well as methodology. In conversation with their faculty advisers, students develop a proposal for a research project or an applied research project, execute the project, write a thesis about the project, and defend the thesis publically. By the end of the program, students will display mastery in the following areas:

Graduate Program Learning Outcomes

1. **Communication.** Students will master communication in a number of modalities
 - a. **Writing.**
 - i. Students will demonstrate a sophisticated ability to find, analyze, synthesize, evaluate, and use theories, scholarly writings, and anthropological data from academic sources in their own writing and research.
 - ii. Students will present data and formulate coherent, persuasive arguments based on original research at a professional level for diverse audiences
 - iii. Students will demonstrate mastery of the writing conventions suitable for their chosen subfield of anthropology and for their

chosen presentation milieu, which may include research proposals, reports, applied deliverables, and a graduate thesis.

- b. **Numeracy.** Students will design and develop tables, charts, graphs, and maps and present scientific data through appropriate means of scientific illustration. They will choose and employ appropriate software to generate these materials.
 - c. **Oral, visual, and video presentation.** Students will demonstrate mastery in presenting information orally (with and without visual support such as PowerPoint), visually, and/or in video format. They will understand how to target their communications for specific audiences, including specialists and non-specialists. They will be able to facilitate discussions and work in groups.
 - d. **Ethics**
 - i. Student writing will illustrate the appropriate format for citing referencing primary and secondary source material. Students will understand and apply the principles of academic honesty codified in the Anthropology Department's Statement on Academic Honesty.
 - ii. Students will evaluate the effects of their communications, particularly regarding impacts on the groups of people being represented.
2. **Critical thinking.** Students will show mastery of analytic thinking. They will be able to evaluate the reliability of their sources and place them within intellectual traditions. They will be able to deploy evidence to support or refute arguments, choose theoretical frameworks to analyze data, synthesize materials from different sources, and craft, critique and evaluate conclusions.
3. **Professional competence and conduct.** Students will have mastery over the materials related to their subfield and other disciplines relevant to their work, and they will exemplify professional demeanor in their interactions with their peers, their clients, and the public.
- a. Students will illustrate mastery of anthropological ontologies, demonstrated by passing the Core Seminars in anthropological theory (Anth 511, 550, and 570) and selecting and employing a set of theories in their thesis.
 - b. Students will show mastery of anthropological methods as appropriate to their chosen subfield, demonstrated by applying skills from one or more methodology courses to generate and analyze primary data for their thesis and/or other presentations, deliverables, or reports.
 - c. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how the interplay between theory, research questions, methods, and data shapes our knowledge and/or interpretations of the human past and present.
 - d. Students will show they understand the relevance of anthropology in and to contemporary public issues and engagement.
 - e. Students will know how to apply their anthropological skills and knowledge in professional settings.

- i. Students will know how to conduct themselves responsibly in educational and professional settings when presenting, teaching, and doing research.
 - ii. Students will show mastery of goal setting, efficiency, time management, and effective communication skills
 - iii. Students will develop interpersonal skills and etiquette such as the ability to interact appropriately and ethically in group work and community engagement.
4. **Research.** Students will show mastery of research in the following modalities
 - a. **Library research and information literacy skills.** Students will demonstrate the ability to identify the parameters and key concepts and theorists in a learning community or intellectual discourse; locate information using library resources (search engines, key words, Boolean operators); and write a literature review. They will assess the quality, relevance, usefulness, reliability, and validity of information gathered from scholarly and other sources.
 - b. **Research design and methodology.**
 - i. Students will show mastery of the skills needed to conceptualize and implement an independent research project with a minimum of supervision and direction.
 - ii. Students will apply their knowledge to craft appropriate research questions, perform original research, generate primary data, and analyze the resulting information.
 - iii. Students will select and employ methodologies appropriate to the task; these methods may include qualitative research methods (e.g., interviewing skills, focus group facilitation, fluency in a foreign language, and mastery of analytical software such as NVivo, MaxQDA, and Atlas.ti) and/or quantitative research methods (e.g., statistical and special analysis and mastery of associated software (SPSS, GIS)).
 - c. **Research ethics.**
 - i. Students will show that they understand and can apply in practice the American Anthropology Association's Principles of Ethical Responsibility and its three main principles: 1. Do not harm, 2. Be open and honest regarding your work, and 3. Obtain informed consent and necessary permission.
 - ii. Students will demonstrate the ability to identify and mitigate ethical risks when dealing with archaeological materials and human and animal subjects.
 - iii. Students will understand and be able to apply professional, legal, and ethical codes in the conduct of development, resource extraction and delivery, and other business, NGO, and governmental activities associated with the utilization of anthropological data.