ANTHROPOLOGY, PHD

for the Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology offers graduate programs leading to the Master of Arts and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees. We generally do not accept students for a terminal M.A.

Admission

Students without the equivalent of the department’s undergraduate concentration may be admitted to either degree program, but they may be required to make up any deficiencies in their anthropological backgrounds. In addition to the Graduate College admission requirements, students whose native language is not English are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c/), with minimum scores set by the Graduate College. Students are admitted for the fall term only.

Students wishing to pursue the minor in Museum Studies must be in good standing in the graduate program of an academic department, and must apply for acceptance into the minor. Admission to the minor is contingent upon approval of the student’s home department and the Museum Studies Steering Committee. Students may apply to the minor during the first week of the fall and spring semesters in any academic year, and should contact the Museum Studies Program Coordinator for application instructions or more information.

Application to the PhD Program Guidance

Introduction

The University of Illinois Department of Anthropology welcomes application to their PhD program for fall 2023. We welcome applicants from all subdisciplines and well as students whose research interests cross sub-disciplinary boundaries and those who are well-matched to the strengths of our faculty. We especially encourage students from underrepresented minority groups to apply as part of our diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

This application process aims to give you the opportunity to show us your best scholarly selves. Please read the information below for guidance on both required and optional materials, designed to give you ways of sharing your thinking that play to your strengths.

A few quick tips to increase your chances for success, in this program and many others:

- Contact potential advisors in advance of submitting your application. A short conversation can reveal whether you have shared interests and mentoring styles. This also saves you work if your preferred faculty is not taking students this year.
- Consider applying to programs where there are at least two faculty with whom you would be excited to work. We often encourage co-advisors because we find that distributing mentoring leads to more varied and constructive advice for our students.
- See if you can talk to graduate students in the program, as well as in the research group or lab (if you are bio/arch) that you are interested in joining.

Application Materials

- Description of Interests
- Statement of Research Interests and Objectives
- Personal statement
- Writing Sample (optional)
- Online conversation (optional)
- 3 Letters of recommendation
- Transcript (GPA 3.0 or higher)
- CV/Resume
- TOEFL score (for non-native English speakers)

Guidance on application materials

DESCRIPTION OF INTERESTS: This part of the application allows you to indicate your topical and geographical areas of interest and identify the faculty members with whom you are interested in working. Please do not write an essay, but rather provide a bulleted list of your interests and the names of at least two faculty with whom you would like to work. Please also indicate in this document if you choose to participate in the optional online conversation (see below). We want you to end up in a program that is best for you, and this information helps us to make this determination.

STATEMENT OF RESEARCH INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES: This is the single most important item in your application. This essay should be 1000-1500 words and give the admissions committee a clear idea of 1) why you want to pursue a career in anthropology; 2) what anthropological questions or problems interest you; 3) how you want to address these questions; and 4) why you want to pursue your graduate degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Submit your Statement of Research Interests and Objectives electronically by uploading it with your online application.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: The Personal Statement is a brief essay (maximum of 500 words) on how your personal background and life experiences, including social, cultural, familial, educational, or other opportunities or challenges, motivated your decision to pursue a graduate degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This is not an academic statement of research, but a discussion of the personal journey that has led to your decision to seek a graduate degree. This information will assist the Admissions Committee identify and nominate candidates for Graduate College Fellowships [see https://grad.illinois.edu/fellowship/competitions]. Submit your Personal Statement with your online application.

WRITING SAMPLE (optional): Your writing sample should provide the Admissions Committee and relevant faculty with a substantive piece of scholarly work and demonstrate your ability to write clearly and to make a cogent argument. Applicants may submit a short research paper, an excerpt from a thesis, a journal article, essay, etc. Please do not send more than 8000 words.

ONLINE CONVERSATION (optional): As an alternative to, or in addition to the optional writing sample, we invite applicants to schedule a fifteen minute call with members of the faculty in their subfield (biological, sociocultural/linguistic, archaeology). If you select this option you will receive a link with options for times between December 2-9, 2020.

Admissions process and timeline

Admission decisions are made collectively by faculty in each subdiscipline in consultation with the Graduate Admissions Committee. We receive many worthy applications, and every year find ourselves putting truly excellent students on our wait list. Often being on this list has more to do with the priority of a given faculty member in admitting
students to their group than anything else. If you are waitlisted, know that
this means we think you would be wonderful for the program and would
very much like to have you join us. We admit students off the wait list
every year.

Our graduate process takes place in two phases. A first selection is made
by December 10\textsuperscript{th} when each subdiscipline ranks their top choices. A
final selection is made by December 17\textsuperscript{th} by the Graduate Admissions
Committee. We will notify you by Dec 21st if you have been admitted or
waitlisted. While the official acceptance date is April 1st, we strongly
encourage admitted students to formally accept or decline our invitation
as soon as they reasonably can so that we can invite waitlisted students
into the program.

Degree Requirements
Each subfield (Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, and Sociocultural/
Linguistic Anthropology) requires a specific set of courses for graduation.
Achieving doctoral candidacy in all three subfields entails passing
(a) language (and/or skill) exam(s), (b) passing a set of preliminary
examinations, and (c) successfully submitting a pre-dissertation paper,
and/or a doctoral proposal, all to be defended in an oral examination.
For specific details and requirements for admission to and navigation of the
Ph.D. program, please refer to the Anthropology Department Graduate
Programs Handbook (http://www.anthro.illinois.edu/programs/graduate/
resources/AnthGradHandbook.pdf) and the University of Illinois Graduate
College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/).

Graduate Teaching Experience
Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, the
Anthropology Department recognizes the importance of teaching
experience as part of a graduate education. Most Anthropology graduate
students will have the opportunity to work as teaching assistants, to
learn to design their own classes, and possibly teach their own classes.

Faculty Research Interests and Facilities
Courses and individualized study provide broad coverage of sociocultural,
linguistic, archaeological, and physical anthropology. The department
provides special emphases in the analyses of state ideologies and
cultural transformations; complex societies in transition; kinship and
gender relations; politics, economics, and business studies; social
movements and youth; border studies, criminalities, violence, and
security; religion, race, and ethnicity; democracy, governance, and
policing; social classification; performance and embodiment; food and
environment; language and culture; discourse and narrative analysis;
transnationalism and diasporas; human evolution; agricultural origins
development; landscape histories and heritage; hunter-gatherer
adaptations; climate change and sustainability; diet and nutrition;
paleoecology and paleobiology; evolutionary genetics; population
genetics; peopling of the Americas; ancient DNA; biomechanics of
 locomotion; exercise and neurobiology; functional morphology;
comparative and analytical osteology; forensics; demography;
immunology; evolutionary medicine; microbe-host interaction;
reproductive ecology; female reproductive physiology; conservation;
and nonhuman primate evolution, morphology, behavior, and ecology. The
department’s research facilities include laboratories for archaeology, GIS
and spatial computing, faunal analysis, casting, stable-isotope analysis,
ethnography, ancient DNA, skeletal biology, locomotion and motion
analysis, and endocrinology.

Departmental funds and a grant from the National Science Foundation,
as well as from area studies centers, are available for graduate students’
summer field research. An archaeology field school is held at various
locations in Illinois and outside of the US (location varies from year to
year). Graduate student programs are enriched by close departmental
relationships with the various interdisciplinary units, including area
studies centers on campus (African, East Asian and Pacific, European
Union, Latin America and Caribbean, Russian and East European; South
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies), the ethnic and gender studies units
(the American Indian Studies Program and the departments of African-
American Studies, Asian American Studies, Gender and Women’s Studies,
and Latina/Latino Studies), along with the Women and Gender in Global
Perspectives Program, Spurlock Museum, the Museum of Natural History,
Krannert Art Museum, the Institute for Genomic Biology, and the Program
in Ancient Technologies and Archaeological Materials.

Agreements between the University and various governments and
institutes facilitate research in many nations. Training is available in
various languages (some with funding available), including Arabic,
Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, Hausa, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese,
Korean, Portuguese, Quechua, Lingala, Russian, Shona, Swahili, Thai, and
Urdu. Students have ready access to the extensive computer facilities of
the University and to the department’s facilities.

Financial Aid
University fellowships, Graduate College fellowships for under-
represented minorities, and teaching and research assistantships provide
variable levels of funding for most graduate students who do not hold external awards. Tuition and service fee waivers accompany
most fellowships and assistantships. Foreign Language and Area
Studies (FLAS) fellowships are available through various area centers.
University of Illinois public archaeology programs, including the Illinois
State Archaeological Survey and the Public Service Archaeology and
Architecture Program, have provided support and research employment
for graduate students in the past, as has the U.S. Army Construction
Engineering Research Laboratory in Champaign.

for the Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology

The preliminary examination consists of a pre-dissertation research
paper, a proposal for doctoral research, and a written examination
designed by the student’s doctoral committee followed by a two-hour oral
examination. The final examination is a defense of the doctoral thesis.
Fieldwork is strongly recommended, although not required.

For additional details and requirements refer to the department
and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/
gradhandbook/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master’s degree or equivalent number of hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Language Requirement: High proficiency in one, or reading
ability in two, foreign languages is required. Statistics, computer
modeling, or similar expertise, however, may be used in lieu of one
foreign language.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 599</td>
<td>Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree)</td>
<td>0-32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours | 96 |

Other Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other requirements may overlap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters Degree Required for Admission to PhD?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 08/2024
for the Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology

1. **Skills for independent research.** Graduate students will acquire professional-level research and reasoning skills to identify important research problems and to subsequently design, execute, and clearly report the results of independent research programs.

2. **Subfield-specific expertise.** Our program encompasses the four fields of anthropology, while our core curriculum grounds the separate graduate trajectories. Graduate students should develop an in-depth understanding of the differences and similarities of people through a combination of technical skills, language abilities, and theoretical approaches relevant to their chosen expertise.

3. **Contributions to discipline.** Graduate students will develop their intellectual skills to contribute to the discipline through service, research, teaching, and publishing.

4. **Ethical and professional standards.** Graduate students will abide by accepted ethical standards of professional anthropological conduct.

**Graduate Degree Programs in Anthropology**

- **Majors**
  - Anthropology, MA (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/anthropology-ma/)
  - optional concentration
    - Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies/)
- Anthropology, PhD (p. 1)
  - optional concentrations
    - Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies/)
    - Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/second-language-acquisition-teacher-education/)
- **Minors**
  - Museum Studies Graduate Minor (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/minors/museum-studies/)

---

**College of Liberal Arts & Sciences**

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences website (https://las.illinois.edu/)

**Admissions**

Anthropology Graduate Admissions (http://www.anthro.illinois.edu)
Graduate College Admissions & Requirements (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/)

**Anthropology**

Department Head: Brenda Farnell
Director of Graduate Studies: Jessica Greenberg
Director of Program: Name

Anthropology website (http://www.anthro.illinois.edu)
Anthropology Faculty (https://anthro.illinois.edu/directory/faculty/)
109 Davenport Hall, 607 South Mathews Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-3616

Anthropology email (anthro@illinois.edu)

**Museum Studies**

Program Coordinator: Susan Frankenberg

---

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 08/2024