ANTHROPOLOGY - DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)

Departmental Subdisciplines

Anthropology in the United States is traditionally divided into four subdisciplines: archaeology, biological, cultural and linguistic. Of these, the first three are major curricular options available to graduate students in anthropology at CU Boulder. Although the three subdisciplines offered in our program require approximately the same minimum number of credit hours for their respective MA and PhD degrees, and all include a required cross-subdisciplinary seminar, they differ substantially in the number of other specific requirements. Particularly at the MA level, there is much less flexibility in some subdisciplines than in others, and students should bear this in mind when choosing their specialty and registering for classes.

Archaeology

The archaeology subdiscipline provides continuous geographic coverage of ancient societies from the Plains of North America through the Southwest and Mesoamerica to the Intermediate Area. The native societies range from egalitarian hunter-gatherers through middle range societies to city-states and empires. The faculty’s theoretical and topical interests include human ecology, ethnoarchaeology, agency and social theory, linguistic and ceramic analyses, remote sensing and geophysical applications in archaeology.

Archaeology links with biological anthropology in a number of ways. For instance, archaeologists encountering burials frequently turn to biological anthropologists for analyses of stature, health and other topics. Many archaeologists and biological anthropologists share a deep interest in human ecology, the ways people have adapted to their environments and have affected those environments.

Archaeology also relates to cultural anthropology in significant ways, since much archaeological theory is derived from cultural theory. Given the vast diachronic interests of archaeology, significant archaeological theory is also derived independently from ethnography. Ethnoarchaeology spans the two subdisciplines, as archaeologists study the material culture of functioning contemporary societies to learn how better to make inferences about past behavior. Both archaeology and cultural anthropology study ethnic and political groups in contact with each other, including topics of ethnohistory, migration, acculturation, trade and tribute, conquest, information sharing, elite emulation and the rise of multiethnic powers.

Biological Anthropology

Biological anthropology encompasses genetics (the study of gene structure, processes and patterns of inheritance), paleoanthropology (the study of human and primate evolution in the fossil record), osteology (the study of the skeleton), paleopathology (the study of evidence of disease and trauma in skeletal and fossil remains), primatology (the study of the behavior and ecology of nonhuman primates) and human biology (biocultural study of biological variation in living human populations).

The biological anthropology faculty at CU have interests and research strengths that cross sub-disciplinary boundaries and foster collaboration with faculty and graduate students in other disciplines and subdisciplines. We share an interest in human ecology, the broad integrative area of anthropology that focuses on the interactions of culture, biology and the environment. We also share an interest in the processes of globalization, which are rapidly changing many aspects of the modern world. As biological anthropologists, we are well positioned to analyze the impact of globalization on the interaction between biology and behavior, and to analyze human and primate adaptations to changing environments and declining biodiversity.

The department offers training in several different aspects of ecology: general ecology, early hominin paleoecology, nutritional community and evolutionary ecology. Our research foci also include anthropogenic and climatic effects on primate behavior and biology; conservation biology; primate evolution; feeding biology of humans and non-human primates; biogeochemical techniques for studying the diets and habitats of modern and fossil fauna; life history; endocrinology; growth and development; and maternal and infant health.

We carry out research and offer training and research opportunities at a wide range of international sites, including: Bezbahafalay, Madagascar; Lajuma Research Centre and the Mokopane Conservation Centre, South Africa; The Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site, South Africa; 12 museums in South Africa, Kenya and Ethiopia; Kibale National Park, Uganda; Keneba, The Gambia; Cali, Colombia; Ta Kout Nature Reserve, Kien Luong Karrst area and Khau Ca Forest area, Vietnam. Our laboratories offer analytical capabilities and training in a broad range of methods, from measurement of human energy expenditure, to immunossay and mid-infrared spectroscopy, to plant nutritional analysis. Our field sites offer training and research on primate health, community ecology, plant-animal interactions, forest ecology, nutritional ecology, conservation biology, dental ecology and paleoecology.

Please note that we do not train students specifically in forensics.

Cultural Anthropology

Cultural anthropologists study the cultural patterns and social institutions that shape how people think and behave in human communities across the globe, including their own society. While their findings are frequently comparative or cross-cultural in scope, cultural anthropologists undertake ethnographic studies through intensive participant-observation in particular cultures, subcultures, communities and regions. The insights of cultural anthropology are typically derived from long-term fieldwork conducted in the local language of a community, with the goal of acquiring an integrated understanding of the interactions between individual actors and local, culturally diverse patterns of life. Among the topical interests of the cultural faculty are gender and sexuality, cultural theory, symbolic anthropology, religion and ritual, human ecology, pastoralism, political economy, applied anthropology, medical anthropology, science, technology and society studies, nationalism and ethnic identity, post-colonialism, tourism, history and memory, and visual anthropology. Areas of regional expertise in the department include Latin America, Native America, Atlantic Canada, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Tibet, East Africa, the Caribbean, Polynesia and Western Europe, as well as their respective diasporas around the world.

Additionally, the cultural faculty are united in sharing an interest in globalization, bringing their ethnographic skills to bear on the contemporaneous but countervailing forces that paradoxically tend at once to global homogenization and local fragmentation. Processes related to globalization studied by cultural faculty and students include the increasingly planetary integration of the economy; the spread of human insecurity with the proliferation of ethnic conflict, violence, crime, disease and financial volatility; the global depletion and degradation of environmental subsistence resources; the impact of tourism and large-scale development projects; the internationalization of environmental,
feminist, religious and human rights movements; the universalization of democratic structures; the rise of "world cities"; the invention of new information and communication technologies; and the increasingly global flows of advertising and consumer goods. The cultural faculty's interest in processes of globalization, human ecology and applied anthropology also intersect with areas of specialization in archaeology and biological anthropology.

**Requirements**

**Prerequisites**

To be considered for admission as a regular degree student, applicants should have a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.00 (4.00 = A) or a Master of Arts degree in anthropology. Graduate Record Examination scores for verbal and quantitative aptitude tests are required. Letters of recommendation and evidence of previous anthropologically oriented experience and work are carefully considered. Students with fewer than 18 credit hours of previous course work in anthropology are considered deficient and may be asked to present a greater number of credit hours for a degree.

**Application**

Inquiries concerning applications should be directed to the main departmental office. Completed applications are reviewed once each year and are due by January 15.

Students with no previous graduate work may apply for entrance into the terminal MA program in archaeology or cultural anthropology. Students with no previous graduate work may apply directly into the PhD program in archaeology, biological anthropology or cultural anthropology.

Students who have or will have completed an MA degree in anthropology by the time of their admission may be eligible for transfer credits on a case-by-case basis and may be required to complete specific remedial requirements in some cases. Students with a master's degree in a closely related discipline may be eligible for transfer credits on a case-by-case basis and should expect to meet all the core requirements of our graduate program. Students holding an MS in museum and field studies from CU Boulder may be admitted to the PhD program on condition of completing deficiencies in course work.

**Course Requirements**

Course work beyond the MA must include a minimum of 12 credit hours and 30 dissertation credit hours.

**Archaeology Subdiscipline**

The terminal MA-track in archaeology is for students intending to earn only an MA degree who enter the program with a BA, BS, or non-anthropology MA or PhD degrees. The degree is designed for students who wish to pursue careers outside of academia (e.g., Cultural Resource Management, Park Service, etc.). The terminal MA is a non-thesis degree, but does require that students take a 3-credit independent research course (ANTH 7840) that will include the completion of a publishable paper and an oral defense of that paper by their MA committee.

The PhD-track is for students wishing to earn a PhD who enter the program with a BA, BS, or non-anthropology MA or PhD degrees. The degree requires at least 42 credits of course work with up to 21 transferable from previous graduate work along with 30 credits of dissertation research. Students entering with a BA, BS, or non-anthropology MA or PhD degrees are required to take ANTH 7840 by their third semester, which will include the completion of a publishable paper and an oral defense of that paper by their PhD committee.

**Required Courses and Credits**

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**Recommended Course Work**

The faculty strongly recommends students take one or more additional classes beyond the required minimum, particularly classes in regional culture histories, general anthropology, and relevant topics in other departments (such as geology and geography). Other classes can include any relevant to a student's program of study, including archaeological area and topical classes, ethnographic theory and area classes, and classes in related departments (such as geology, geography, biology, etc.). Elective classes should be chosen in consultation with each student's advisor.

**Biological Anthropology Subdiscipline**

Students entering the PhD program with an MA from another institution must complete one 5000-level graduate class in Biological Anthropology (see Core Requirements in MA section for suggestions) within the first two years. They must also take Quantitative Methods (ANTH 5000) within the first four semesters if they do not have equivalent training on their record.

The Department of Anthropology offers graduate training at the PhD level in the area of biological anthropology. Biological anthropology students holding a Bachelor's Degree are eligible for direct admission to the PhD program. Students holding a Master's Degree (or other advanced degree such as MS or MD) are also eligible for the program. Student pathways differ depending on the degree they hold upon admission. Degree plans will be individualized according to students' prior training and professional activities. The goal of the program is to train students to pursue academic and allied careers with an emphasis on research.

The degree requires at least 42 hours of course work, along with a minimum of 30 hours of dissertation research hours. Applicants holding an advanced degree may transfer up to 21 hours of previous course work credits, to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

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NOTE: Any transfer credit or other proposed substitutions for required course work should be addressed by petition to the Graduate Committee.

Cultural Anthropology Subdiscipline
The terminal MA track in cultural anthropology is for students intending to earn only an MA degree who enter the program with a BA, BS, MS, or non-anthropology MA or PhD degrees. The terminal MA is a non-thesis degree, but does require that students take a 3-credit independent research course that will include the completion of an approximately 30-page paper in their fourth semester, which will be evaluated by the members of their committee.

An MA in anthropology will no longer be required for applicants to the cultural anthropology PhD program. Applicants with a BA or BS can apply for admission to the PhD program, as can applicants with an MA in anthropology or an MA, MS, or PhD degree in another field. Applicants with an MA in anthropology or an MA or MS in a closely related field who are accepted into the PhD program are eligible for transferring up to 21 course work credits, to be determined on a case-by-case basis. Applicants into the PhD program who have earned a terminal MA in anthropology from CU Boulder will be able to transfer all completed course work credits. The PhD degree requires at least 42 credits of course work along with 30 credits of dissertation research. Students entering with a BA, BS, or non-anthropology MA, MS, or PhD degrees are required to take an independent study with their advisors in their fourth semester, which will include the completion of an approximately 30-page paper that will be evaluated by their committee. After the successful completion of 30 credits of course work and a passing evaluation of the fourth-semester paper, students will earn an MA degree.

Foreign Language Requirement
Language proficiency is essential to research in cultural anthropology, so incoming graduate students are expected to identify and begin study of a foreign research language as soon as possible, preferably no later than the first year. For languages not available at the University of Colorado, students are encouraged to begin or advance their language proficiency during the summer following their first year.

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1 The tools requirement is intended to provide a graduate student in cultural anthropology with a skill or set of skills that will enhance his or her research capabilities. Typically this involves training in a particular methodological technique or analytical process.

NOTE: Any transfer credit or other proposed substitutions for required course work should be addressed by petition to the Graduate Committee.