

# MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology is the study of human difference and diversity in the present and the past. In its broad focus on humanity, anthropology brings together the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences.

GW's anthropology program is committed to integrating humanistic and scientific perspectives while pursuing advanced research of the highest quality. The master of arts (MA) in anthropology signals that the holder can synthesize diverse data about human beings, a skill increasingly valued in a variety of professions and academic settings.

The graduate programs in anthropology take advantage of the resources available in the nation's capital, including the University's 120-year relationship with the Smithsonian Institution. This location puts students in a prime position for studying and collaborating with refugee and immigrant communities, policymakers, nongovernmental organizations, the news media, and numerous scientific and educational organizations.

The MA in anthropology is offered with three optional concentrations:

- The international development concentration provides an understanding of world problems such as hunger, health, and economic change, thus preparing students for work in development projects. This non-thesis program normally is completed in two years.
- The museum training concentration prepares students for research and careers in the scholarly and curatorial aspects of museum work. In this concentration, 12 to 15 credits derive from museum-related courses, including internships.
- The health, science, and society concentration includes two separate focus areas: medical anthropology and science and technology studies. Each concentration focus area requires 15 credit hours of coursework approved by the respective concentration focus advisor.

Students interested in biological anthropology are encouraged to consider the master of science program in human paleobiology.

Visit the program website (<https://anthropology.columbian.gwu.edu/ma-anthropology/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

**Admission deadlines:** Fall - February 1: Priority consideration for admission and funding; April 1: Guaranteed review for admission and consideration for funding, if available. (Applications for admission will continue to be accepted after April 1, when space remains available in the program.)

Spring – October 1

**Standardized test scores:** The GRE general exam is not required

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the program are:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 6.0 with no individual score below 5.0; or

- TOEFL: 550 on paper-based or 80 on Internet-based; or

- PTE Academic: 53

Applicants who do not meet minimum English language requirements may be eligible for our full-time Applied English Language program.

**Recommendations:** Two (2) recommendations required:

**Prior academic records:** Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission.

If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

**Statement of purpose:** In an essay of 250 – 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application. If you are applying for an assistantship or fellowship, you should also describe any teaching experience you have had.

**International applicants only:** Please follow this link - <https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants> (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/>) - to review the International Applicant Information carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW, and English language requirements.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Graduate Studies  
 The George Washington University  
 801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107  
 Washington DC 20052

For additional information about the admissions process visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/>) page.

Contact:

askccas@gwu.edu  
 202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs. (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext>)

A minimum of 36 credits in graduate coursework, including 9 credits in proseminars and 3 credits in an approved methods course. Students must also complete either a thesis (for which they must register for 3 to 6 credits of ANTH 6999 Thesis Research) or a culminating journal article. The remaining credits are fulfilled with electives and, if a concentration was selected, concentration courses. Students are encouraged to plan their programs with an advisor.

Foreign language—There is no language requirement for the MA degree. However, thesis projects that require language skills will only be approved by department advisors provided students show evidence of having language skills that are required.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core requirements</b>		
<b>Proseminars</b>		
At least three proseminars selected from the following:		
ANTH 6101	Proseminar in Biological Anthropology	
ANTH 6102	Proseminar in Sociocultural Anthropology	
ANTH 6103	Proseminar in Archaeology	
ANTH 6104	Proseminar in Linguistic Anthropology	
Students with significant background in a field, as determined by evaluation of a petition to the proseminar instructor, may waive one proseminar. Those who are permitted to waive a proseminar must take one course from group A and one from Group B.		

### Group A

ANTH 6101	Proseminar in Biological Anthropology
or ANTH 6103	Proseminar in Archaeology

### Group B

ANTH 6102	Proseminar in Sociocultural Anthropology
or ANTH 6104	Proseminar in Linguistic Anthropology

### Methods

One approved 3-credit methods course.

### Thesis or other culminating project

Students must write either a thesis or a culminating journal article. Students who choose to write a thesis must register for 3 to 6 credits of ANTH 6999 Thesis Research..

### Electives

18 to 24 credits in elective courses, depending on the number of credits taken in core course requirements. Students may choose to pursue a concentration (below), in which case any credits remaining after core and concentration requirements have been met are taken in elective courses.

In addition, students can enrich their degree through courses in programs at GW's other research centers or through the DC-schools consortium.

### Optional concentrations

In addition to completing all core requirements for the degree, students may choose to pursue a concentration as part of their program of study. All requirements for the concentration must be fulfilled.

#### Museum training concentration (12 credits)<sup>1</sup>

12 credits in courses selected from the following. 6 of these credits may be in an internship.

ANTH 6200	Museum Anthropology
ANTH 6201	Methods in Museum Anthropology
ANTH 6203	Preventive Conservation Concepts
ANTH 6204	Preventive Conservation Techniques
ANTH 6205	Problems in Conservation
ANTH 6230	Internship in Museum Anthropology
ANTH 6291	Special Topics in Museum Anthropology
ANTH 6508	Ethics and Cultural Property

#### International development concentration (12 credits)

Required

ANTH 6301 The Anthropology of Development

Two courses selected from the following:

ANTH 6302 Issues in Development

ANTH 6330 Internship in Development Anthropology

ANTH 6391 Anthropology and Contemporary Problems

ANTH 6501 Gender and Sexuality

ANTH 6507 Nationalism and Ethnicity

One approved graduate-level course in quantitative analysis.

Health, science, and society (HSS) concentration focus options (12 or 15 credits)

The HSS concentration offers a choice of two focus areas: medical anthropology (15 credits) and science and technology studies (12 credits). Please consult with the advisor for each focus area.

HSS concentration—Science and technology studies focus (12 credits):

Required

ANTH 6504 Social Study of Science and Technology (This cornerstone course should be taken in the first year of the program.)

One approved 3-credit methods course

6 credits in sociocultural anthropology coursework selected from the list below. For courses not directly focused on health, students should direct their learning toward health issues to the extent possible, e.g., by selecting a health-related term paper topic. With the concentration advisor's permission, other anthropology courses, including courses offered through the Consortium of University of the Washington Metropolitan Area, may be taken to fulfill this concentration requirement.

ANTH 3503 Psychological Anthropology (for graduate credit)

ANTH 3991 Special Topics (Race and Policing (taken for graduate credit))

ANTH 6506 Topics in Medical Anthropology (Culture and Psychiatry)

ANTH 6591 Topics in Sociocultural Anthropology (Either Materiality: The Anthropology of Things AND/OR Anthropology of Environmental Politics)

AMST 2620 Human Mind and Artificial Intelligence (taken for graduate credit)

AMST 6610 Constructing the Natural, Unnatural, and Artificial

HSS concentration—medical anthropology focus (15 credits):

Required

ANTH 6505 Medical Anthropology (This graduate seminar is the required cornerstone class and should be taken in the fall of first year)

6 credits in research methods courses, which must include one course in qualitative methods and one course in quantitative methods, selected from the following:

Qualitative methods course options:

ANTH 6331 Research Methods in Development Anthropology

ANTH 6531 Methods in Sociocultural Anthropology

SOC 6232 Qualitative Methods

Quantitative methods course options:

PUBH 6003 Principles and Practices of Epidemiology

6 credits in sociocultural anthropology coursework selected from the following courses. For courses not directly focused on health, students should direct their learning, as much as possible, toward health issues, for example, by selecting a health-related term paper topic. (With the concentration advisor's permission, other anthropology courses, including courses offered through the Consortium of University of the Washington Metropolitan Area, may be taken to fulfill this concentration requirement.)

ANTH 6301 The Anthropology of Development

ANTH 6302 Issues in Development (Anthropology of Intervention)

ANTH 6391 Anthropology and Contemporary Problems (Anthropology of Security)

ANTH 6501 Gender and Sexuality

ANTH 6504 Social Study of Science and Technology

ANTH 6505 Medical Anthropology

ANTH 6506 Topics in Medical Anthropology

ANTH 6591 Topics in Sociocultural Anthropology (Displacement and Diaspora)

ANTH 6707 Issues in Middle East Anthropology (Anthropology of State and Government AND/ OR Anthropology of Citizenship and Displacement)

IAFF 6138            Special Topics in International  
Development Studies (Gender and  
Development or Indigenous People)

Undergraduate courses and graduate internships may be taken for credit toward the HSS concentration—medical anthropology focus with the permission of the concentration advisor. Examples include, but are not limited to the following:

ANTH 3503            Psychological Anthropology

ANTH 6330            Internship in Development Anthropology

<sup>1</sup>Students whose primary interest is in museum techniques, rather than anthropology, are advised to apply to the MA in museum studies program (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/museum-studies/ma/>). (Note that an MA in teaching in the field of museum education (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/education-human-development/educational-leadership/ma-teaching-museum-studies/>) is also available through the Graduate School of Education and Human Development.)