DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY 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 anthropology is committed to integrating humanistic and scientific perspectives while pursuing advanced research of the highest quality. Our graduate programs in anthropology take advantage of the resources available in the nation’s capital, including our 120-year-old relationship with the Smithsonian Institution. Our location places us 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 PhD program trains students in the four fields of sociocultural anthropology, archaeology, linguistic anthropology, and biological anthropology while providing training in areas of more specialized interest. Students pursue independent research in preparation to become practicing anthropologists. The curriculum develops intellectual creativity, effective communication skills, and rigorous scholarship with a focus on applying anthropological theory and method to the study of contemporary social problems.

All students are strongly encouraged to complete an internship where they communicate anthropology to a general public. Students admitted to the program receive a fellowship and may take advantage of GW’s partnerships with the Smithsonian Institution and Washington, D.C.’s archival collections and policy-making institutions. All PhD candidates must complete a dissertation that demonstrates their ability to do original research.

There are two separate PhD programs affiliated with the Anthropology department (Anthropology and Human Paleobiology), with separate admissions procedures. Please be sure that you are submitting your application to the correct program.

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

ADMISSIONS

Admission Fall – December 15 deadlines:

Standardized GRE general test is not 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.

Statement of purpose:

In an essay of 1000-1500 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.

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

Requirements for the first phase of the program

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Core prosemesters</td>
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<td>Students are expected to take three of the four offered prosemesters; however, students with significant background in a field, as determined through petition to the instructor, may waive one proseminar.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 6101</td>
<td>Proseminar in Biological Anthropology</td>
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<td>ANTH 6102</td>
<td>Proseminar in Sociocultural Anthropology</td>
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<td>ANTH 6103</td>
<td>Proseminar in Archaeology</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 6104</td>
<td>Proseminar in Linguistic Anthropology</td>
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One research methods seminar

ANTH 6531 Methods in Sociocultural Anthropology

One professional skills and ethics seminar

Elective courses

Dissertation Research (6-24 credits)

ANTH 8999 Dissertation Research

All students must demonstrate proficiency in one foreign language; an additional language may be required if it is needed for fieldwork or archival research. An internship in anthropology and public life at an institution responsible for communicating anthropological knowledge to diverse audiences is recommended.

Requirements for the second phase of the program

In the second phase, students prepare a research proposal that meets funding agency guidelines and take the general examination in at least three major areas (e.g., a general field in anthropological theory, a geographic area, and a thematically defined field). Following successful completion of the general examination, an oral defense of the student’s research proposal is held. Those who pass...