MASTER OF SCIENCE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN PALEOBIOLOGY (STEM)

Students enrolled in the master of science in human paleobiology program investigate the origins and evolution of humankind through interdisciplinary research using the latest instrumentation.

The STEM-designated program works in tandem with the Department of Anthropology’s Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology (http://cashp.columbian.gwu.edu/) and incorporates faculty from the GW Departments of Biological Sciences; Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences; and Anatomy and Regenerative Biology. MS students also benefit from the program’s ties to the Smithsonian Institution’s Human Origins Program and other research centers in the greater Washington, DC, area.

Master’s level coursework includes small-group seminars, original research in our state-of-the-art facilities, and two laboratory rotations or fieldwork (https://anthropology.columbian.gwu.edu/fieldwork/) at institutions outside of GW.

ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines: Fall - April 1 (February 1 for priority fellowship consideration)

Standardized test scores: 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

Recommendations: Two (2) recommendations required

Prerequisites: A bachelor’s degree in anthropology, biological sciences, geological sciences, psychology, or other cognate discipline from an accredited college or university. Advanced undergraduate coursework in one or more of the following subjects is desirable: biology, chemistry, biochemistry, physics, geoscience, and calculus.

REQUIREMENTS

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>HOMP 6202</td>
<td>Lab Techniques: Paleoanthropology</td>
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<td>HOMP 6203</td>
<td>Ethics and Professional Practice</td>
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ANTH 6413 Analytical Methods in Human Evolutionary Studies

At least one paleobiology core course selected from the following:

- HOMP 6201 Hominid Paleobiology

or HOMP 6201 Hominid Paleobiology

At least one modern biology core course selected from the following:

- ANTH 6403 Primate Behavior
- ANTH 6404 The Evolution of Primate Life Histories
- ANTH 6407 Anthropological Genetics
- ANTH 6423 Evolution of the Human Brain

Electives

17 to 19 credits in elective courses. Courses should be selected in consultation with the faculty advisor, and may include a combination of the following: independent laboratory or field-based research; a field course; relevant courses in Anatomy, Anthropology, Biological Sciences, Geography, Geology, Human Paleobiology, Psychology, and Speech, Language, and Hearing Science available at GW; and/or relevant courses from the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Thesis

- HOMP 6999 Thesis Research (taken for 6 credits)

*In order to maintain a 9-credit per semester course load, students register for 1 to 3 credits in HOMP 6202, depending on the number of credits taken in the other courses for which they are concurrently enrolled.