

# 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 deadlines: Fall – December 15

Standardized GRE general test is not required.  
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 7.0 with no individual score below 6.0; or

- TOEFL: 600 on paper-based or 100 on Internet-based; or

- PTE Academic: 68;

Recommend: Three (3), at least two of which should be from faculty familiar with the applicant's scholarship.

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 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.

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

### Requirements for the first phase of the program

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

advance to candidacy for the PhD and engage in completion and defense of the dissertation.