

# Master of Arts in Anthropology

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The anthropology graduate program provides students with a rigorous background in contemporary theory and practice in applied anthropology through advanced coursework, internships, independent research and a research-based thesis. Students learn to apply anthropological concepts, methods, ethics and perspectives to the specific subfield of anthropology in which they practice. The applied cultural anthropology concentration identifies and assists in resolving current social issues in their cultural dimensions. The cultural resource management concentration involves the inventory, assessment and conservation of archaeological and historical sites and remains, and places of traditional cultural importance, as a part of a larger management framework.

## Admission Requirements

The annual deadline for application to the Master of Arts (MA) in Anthropology is February 15. Students seeking admission to the program must:

- Satisfy the Admissions Requirements for Graduate Degrees (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/admissions/graduate/>).
- Have completed a minimum of 18 credits of undergraduate coursework in anthropology with a GPA of 3.00. A completed baccalaureate degree in anthropology is preferred. (*Provisional admission is possible if this criterion is not met.*)
- Submit the following additional documentation:
  - a. Three letters of recommendation from professors or other professionals particularly qualified to attest to the applicant's qualifications for graduate study.
  - b. A letter of intent, including a brief statement of the applicant's research interests, career goals, and reasons for pursuing graduate study in anthropology at UAA.
  - c. A substantial paper or research proposal written by the applicant indicative of potential for graduate study.

Acceptance into the program is determined by the Anthropology Graduate Admissions Committee and is based on the prospective student's overall credentials and the availability of appropriate faculty for student research interests.

Applicants without the minimum credits of undergraduate coursework in anthropology or who have other important deficiencies identified in their undergraduate training may be provisionally admitted to the MA program. Provisionally-admitted students are notified of identified deficiencies and required to complete leveling coursework at UAA, normally within a period of one year, before admission to regular status in the program is conferred. In some cases, deficiencies can be made up at another academic institution. Provisionally-admitted students cannot receive graduate teaching assistantships, research assistantships, or departmental travel/research grants.

Prospective graduate students are strongly advised to contact potential research/advisor faculty at an early stage of their admission process. An initial advisor is assigned to students based on interests and other academic criteria.

## Academic Requirements

A full-time student in the MA program is expected to complete a minimum of 9 credits (or 6 in the final semester of coursework) applicable to the program per semester with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. Part-time students must complete at least 3 credits per semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0. Upon completion of all coursework on the Graduate Studies Plan, students must enroll in continuing registration credits in fall and spring semesters. Failure to comply may result in the student being removed from the program. The same is true of students who fail to satisfy provisional-admission conditions. In addition, students must advance to candidacy within five years unless on an approved leave of absence. Such leaves of absence may not total more than four semesters.

## Candidacy Requirements

An anthropology graduate student advances to candidacy by:

1. Meeting the university's a (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/degreerequirements/>)dvancement to candidacy (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/degreerequirements/>) requirements.
2. Selecting a graduate advisory committee by the end of the second semester of graduate study.
3. Submitting an official graduate studies plan (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/degreerequirements/policies/>) (GSP) after no more than three semesters of full-time graduate study.
4. Completing the appropriate core theory course (ANTH A610 or ANTH A611) with a minimum grade of B and passing ANTH A620. If necessary, the core theory course may be repeated once, but failure to earn a B or higher the second time will result in removal from the program.
5. Demonstrating specific research, statistical, or language competencies as deemed necessary by the student's graduate advisory committee. This could include statistics, qualitative data analysis (QDA), computer skills, photogrammetry, SEM image analysis, GIS analysis, a specific technical research skill, and/or non-English language proficiency as appropriate.
6. Making an oral defense of a thesis prospectus and receiving subsequent approval of the prospectus from the graduate advisory committee.

## Graduation Requirements

- Satisfy the General University Requirements for Graduate Degrees (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/degreerequirements/>).
- Complete the program requirements for one of the applied program concentrations below:

**Applied Cultural Anthropology**

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Coursework</b>		
ANTH A610	Anthropological Theory	3
ANTH A615	Advanced Applied Anthropology	3
ANTH A630	Advanced Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology	3
ANTH A658	Advanced Applied Ethics in Anthropology	3
ANTH A687 or ANTH A695	Advanced Field Methods in Cultural Anthropology Anthropology Practicum	3
Complete core coursework from electives <sup>1</sup>		9-12
<b>Thesis-Related Credits</b>		
ANTH A620	Research Design	1
ANTH A698	Individual Research <sup>2</sup>	2
ANTH A699	Thesis Research <sup>3</sup>	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>30-33</b>

**Cultural Resource Management**

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Coursework</b>		
ANTH A611	Archaeological Theory	3
ANTH A658	Advanced Applied Ethics in Anthropology	3
ANTH A677	Cultural Resource Management	3
ANTH A680	Advanced Analytical Techniques in Archaeology and Bioanthropology	4
Complete core coursework from electives <sup>1</sup>		11-15
<b>Thesis-Related Credits</b>		
ANTH A620	Research Design	1
ANTH A698	Individual Research <sup>2</sup>	2
ANTH A699	Thesis Research <sup>3</sup>	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>30-34</b>

<sup>1</sup> Elective courses should be approved by the student's graduate advisor, and students are encouraged to include at least one course from outside the field of anthropology. No more than 6 credits of 400-level coursework can be applied as elective courses. No more than 6 credits combined of ANTH A695 or ANTH A697 may be applied to the degree.

<sup>2</sup> An additional 1 credit of ANTH A698 above the 2 required credits can be applied toward the degree as an elective credit with faculty advisor approval but no more than 3 total credits can be applied to the degree.

<sup>3</sup> Up to 3 additional credits of ANTH A699 above the 3 required credits can be applied toward the degree as elective credit with faculty advisor approval but no more than 6 total credits can be applied to the degree.

**A minimum of 30 credits is required for this degree regardless of the concentration chosen.**

**Additional requirements:**

1. The student must advance to candidacy within five years based upon fulfillment of the candidacy requirements listed above.
2. The student must submit a written MA thesis to the graduate advisory committee, conforming to UAA specifications.
3. The student must pass an oral defense of the thesis, open to the university community and the general public.
4. The student must submit an application for graduation (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/academicstandardsregulations/graduation/>).

**Program Student Learning Outcomes**

Students graduating with a Master of Arts in Anthropology will be able to:

- Demonstrate graduate-level knowledge of core concepts and research methods in the selected applied program concentration.
- Articulate key ethical considerations and responsibilities in applied anthropological research.
- Design, conduct, analyze, and present applied anthropological research within the conventions of the selected program concentration and acceptable to the faculty of the anthropology department.