Anthropology MA

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Learn more about the Master of Arts in Anthropology.

About the Program

The MA program in Anthropology provides students with training that integrates the four traditional subfields of the discipline and organizes their engagement with anthropology around two thematic areas:

- The first thematic area, Mobility and Global Inequality, emphasizes social processes and institutions that underlie the impact of peoples' movement and the experiences they encounter in terms of social inequalities, resource distribution and power inequities. It is marked by emphasis on ethnographic, linguistic, and visual data and analytical methods grounded in contemporary theory in the social sciences.
- The second thematic area, Evolution and Human Environments, emphasizes the origins and development of all forms of human adaptations in the bio-social realm. It is marked by emphasis on ecological, geographic and spatial-historical data, as well as quantitative analyses grounded in evolutionary theory.

All students in the program complete a set of core courses, which includes foundational courses in the thematic areas and history of the discipline. Additional core courses provide professional training in ethics and grant writing in the discipline. Students choose from a set of elective courses allowing them to specialize in the literature, theory and unique subdisciplinary perspectives or to expand their training in anthropological methods. Faculty from the subfields of Anthropological Linguistics, Biological Anthropology, Medical Anthropology, Prehistoric and Historic Archaeology, Sociocultural Anthropology, and Visual Anthropology contribute to the program.

The MA is a terminal degree.

Time Limit for Degree Completion: 3 years

Campus Location: Main

Full-Time/Part-Time Status: Full-time status is strongly encouraged, although some students may be able to complete the degree program on a part-time basis.

Interdisciplinary Study: Anthropology is an inherently interdisciplinary field of study.

Areas of Specialization: Faculty members specialize in such areas as anthropology of visual communication, archaeology of the eastern United States and tropical Americas, historical archaeology, human evolutionary biology, human genetic and physiological variation, language socialization, political economy of language, politics of cultural identity and difference, and sociocultural dynamics of globalization.

Job Prospects: The MA program supports student preparation for entry into doctoral programs, as well as careers in business, cultural resource management, government, museums, nonprofits and other sectors.

Non-Matriculated Student Policy: Non-matriculated students are generally restricted to the following five courses:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 5396</td>
<td>History of Anthropological Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 8001</td>
<td>Mobility and Global Inequality</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 8002</td>
<td>Evolution, Human Environments, and the Culture Niche</td>
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<td>Ethical Considerations in Anthropology Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 8330</td>
<td>Funding and Grant Writing in Anthropology</td>
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Taking coursework as a non-matriculated student does not ensure acceptance into the master's program if the student later applies for admission. If a non-matriculated student is later admitted into the master's program, a maximum of 9 credits of non-matriculated coursework may be applied toward the degree.

Financing Opportunities: Typically, the Department does not provide financial assistance to students at the master's level. Teaching and Research Assistantships are reserved for PhD students.

Admission Requirements and Deadlines

Application Deadline:
Fall: March 15

After the deadline, prospective applicants should contact the Director of Graduate Studies at christie.rockwell@temple.edu (Christie.rockwell@temple.edu) for consideration. It is recommended that before an applicant prepares and submits an application for admission, they should establish personal contact with the Director of Graduate Studies.

APPLY ONLINE to this graduate program.

Letters of Reference:
Number Required: 2

From Whom: Letters of recommendation should be requested from individuals who are well positioned to evaluate the applicant's academic abilities and accomplishments as well as their potential for graduate study. Letters must be on official letterhead and be signed by the recommender.

Bachelor’s Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline: A baccalaureate degree (BA/BS) is required, but it need not be a degree in Anthropology.

Statement of Goals: In approximately 750 words, address your main area(s) of scholarly interest, the experiences that have led you to graduate studies in Anthropology, the specific reasons for your interest in Temple's MA in Anthropology, and your career goals.

Standardized Test Scores:
GRE: Not required.

Applicants who earned their baccalaureate degree from an institution where the language of instruction was other than English, with the exception of those who subsequently earned a master's degree at a U.S. institution, must report scores for a standardized test of English that meet these minimums:

- TOEFL iBT: 79
- IELTS Academic: 6.5
- PTE Academic: 53

Resume: Current resume required.

Program Requirements

General Program Requirements:
Number of Credits Required Beyond the Baccalaureate: 30

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Methods Course

Select one from the following: 3

- ANTH 5006 | Quantitative Analysis of Anthropological Data               |
- ANTH 5170 | Methods in Archaeology                                      |
- ANTH 5189 | Field Session in Archaeology                                |
- ANTH 5389 | Fieldwork in Ethnography                                    |
- ANTH 5444 | Anthropological Problems in Visual Production               |
- ANTH 5458 | Anthropology of Public Culture                               |
- ANTH 5504 | Language as Social Action                                   |
- ANTH 5509 | Language Socialization and Cultural Reproduction            |
- ANTH 5510 | Methods in Linguistic Anthropology                          |
- ANTH 5770 | Methods in Physical Anthropology                            |
- ANTH 8011 | Teaching of Anthropology                                    |

Electives 1 12

Total Credit Hours 30
MA students select four electives. Note that a maximum of two courses (6 credits) may be taken from outside the department. Courses taken outside the department require approval from the Director of Graduate Studies.

**Culminating Event:**

**Comprehensive Examination:**

At the end of the fourth academic term, students in the MA in Anthropology program take a comprehensive exam. This exam assesses the integrated knowledge gained in the five core courses. A committee of faculty who teach the five courses write the exam, and all members of a cohort take the same exam. There is no thesis option for this terminal master's program.

**Contacts**

**Program Web Address:**

https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/anthropology-ma-la-anth-ma

**Department Information:**

Department of Anthropology  
210 Gladfelter Hall  
1115 W. Polett Walk  
Philadelphia, PA 19122-6089  
anthgapp@temple.edu  
215-204-7775

**Submission Address for Application Materials:**

https://apply.temple.edu/CLA/

**Department Contacts:**

**Admissions:**
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215-204-7775

**Director of Graduate Studies:**
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**Chairperson, Associate Professor:**
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