

MASTER OF ARTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY, PROFESSIONAL ANTHROPOLOGY SPECIALIZATION, PLAN B



The MA program in Professional Anthropology is targeted towards those looking for non-academic careers in practicing and public anthropology, but it can also provide appropriate skillsets and research experience for entry into a PhD program. This MA focuses on flexible course work adapted to student interests and needs, with particular attention to the acquisition of practical skills via methods training. The degree also provides students with hands-on practical work, culminating in a final project such as a portfolio, exam, or professional paper that is shaped and determined by the advisor, committee, and student. Students are guided by advisors with similar areas of interests. Accepted students work with advisors and committees to plan a 2-year curriculum based on student interests and goals.

This Plan B portfolio degree and particularly the degree's emphasis on research methods courses illustrate the program's emphasis on obtaining a wide range of practical research skills that will better position graduates to obtain employment and to help solve real-world social and environmental problems. Students work with their advisors and committees to plan how to incorporate an experiential learning opportunity (such as an internship) and professional development training appropriate to their career goals.

Students within this specialization choose one of three tracks in: Archaeology, Applied Cultural Anthropology, or Human Evolutionary Biology:

- The Archaeology track prepares graduates for professional roles in public (local, state, federal) and private (non- and for-profit) institutions that work to interpret, conserve, and preserve archaeological heritage. Students will be prepared to apply skills related to archaeological methods and legislation in contemporary work-force situations.
- The Applied Cultural Anthropology track prepares graduates for careers in government, non-governmental organizations, foundations, research in diverse fields (health, environment, technology, development), user experience design and research (tech), conservation, global business, international and community development, education, and other sectors, as well as for future doctoral study.

- The Human Evolutionary Biology track prepares graduates to apply knowledge of human anatomy, physiology, genetics, and evolution in a wide range of real-world settings. Students gain skills useful in health sciences, forensic sciences, public health, as well as in areas such as law enforcement and disaster response. The program also provides strong preparation for those planning to continue into doctoral programs in human biology, forensic anthropology, biomedical sciences, or related fields.

[Students interested in graduate work should refer to the Graduate and Professional Bulletin.](#)

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of anthropological theories and how to apply them appropriately to address and help solve real-world problems.
2. Apply anthropological methods by practicing independent and collaborative research techniques that can be used to address both academic questions and help solve societal challenges.
3. Utilize and learn to assess anthropological and interdisciplinary data collection and analysis methods and in the process improve data literacy.
4. Develop critical thinking and problem solving skills that can be used to solve challenges facing humans and the environment.
5. Demonstrate the academic background and skills needed to enter a PhD program in anthropology or to immediately meaningfully practice a job related to the discipline.