Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology

The doctoral program in Anthropology at Texas A&M University is structured around the holistic study of the human condition. Students receive comprehensive training within a variety of theoretical and methodological frameworks, integrating a range of quantitative and qualitative approaches to produce culturally informed and socially engaged graduates. Our program facilitates discovery and innovation by exposing students to ground-breaking, original research being conducted by world leading faculty experts. Department faculty and graduate students work at numerous archaeological, paleoanthropological, primatological, and cultural anthropological sites around the world, both on land and at sea. Department faculty and graduate students also conduct laboratory-based research in some of the most cutting-edge ancient DNA, stable light isotope, and nautical and terrestrial archaeology laboratories and facilities in the country.

The PhD program in Anthropology is research-intensive and allows students to specialize in one or more of the following areas: (1) Biological Anthropology; (2) Cultural Anthropology; (3) Nautical Archaeology; and (4) Archaeology. Cross-cutting these programs, students engage with our Bridging Themes — including (1) Ecology and Evolution; (2) Diet, Subsistence, and Nutrition; (3) Dispersals, Diaspora, and Migration; and (4) Technology and Material Culture — to develop their own unique, individualized educational curricula. The program provides formal training, research opportunities, and intensive fieldwork experiences for students seeking careers in professional research and/or teaching careers in academic institutions, governmental agencies, museums, or private industry.

Work leading to the PhD degree is designed to give the candidate a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of his or her professional field, as well as training in methods of research. The final basis for granting the degree shall be the candidate’s grasp of the subject matter of a broad field of study and a demonstrated ability to do independent research. In addition, the candidate must have acquired the ability to express thoughts clearly and forcefully in both oral and written form. The degree is not granted solely for the completion of coursework, residence, and technical requirements, although these must be met.

For more information about specific department requirements for the PhD, please see https://liberalarts.tamu.edu/anthropology/graduate/graduate-courswork/.

Steps to Fulfill a Doctoral Program (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#stepstofulfilladotoralprogramtext)

Program Requirements

Program Requirements

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Student’s Advisory Committee

After receiving admission to graduate studies and enrolling, the student will consult with the head of his or her major or administrative department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty) concerning appointment of the chair of the advisory committee. The student’s advisory committee will consist of no fewer than four members of the graduate faculty representative of the student’s several fields of study and research, where the chair or co-chair must be from the student’s department (or intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), and at least one or more of the members must have an appointment to a department other than the student’s major department. The outside member for a student in an interdisciplinary degree program must be from a department different from the chair of the student’s committee.

The chair, in consultation with the student, will select the remainder of the advisory committee. Only graduate faculty members located on Texas A&M University campuses may serve as chair of a student’s advisory committee. Other Texas A&M University graduate faculty members located off-campus may serve as a member or co-chair (but not chair), with a member as the chair.

If the chair of a student’s advisory committee voluntarily leaves the University and the student is near completion of the degree and wants the chair to continue to serve in this role, the student is responsible for securing a current member of the University Graduate Faculty from the student’s academic program and located near the Texas A&M University campus site, to serve as the co-chair of the committee. The Department Head or Chair of Intercollegiate faculty may request in writing to the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School that a faculty member who is on an approved leave of absence or has voluntarily separated from the university, be allowed to continue to serve in the role of chair of a student’s advisory committee without a co-chair for up to one year. The students should be near completion of the degree. Extensions beyond the one year period can be granted with additional approval of the Dean.

The committee members’ signatures on the degree plan indicate their willingness to accept the responsibility for guiding and directing the entire academic program of the student and for initiating all academic actions concerning the student. Although individual committee members may be replaced by petition for valid reasons, a committee cannot resign en masse. The chair of the committee, who usually has immediate supervision of the student’s research and dissertation or record of study, has the responsibility for calling all meetings of the committee. The duties of the committee include responsibility for the proposed degree plan, the research proposal, the preliminary examination, the dissertation or record of study and the final examination. In addition, the committee, as a group and as individual members, is responsible for counseling the student on academic matters, and, in the case of academic deficiency, initiating recommendations to the Graduate and Professional School.

Degree Plan

The student’s advisory committee will evaluate the student’s previous education and degree objectives. The committee, in consultation with
the student, will develop a proposed degree plan and outline a research problem which, when completed, as indicated by the dissertation (or its equivalent for the degree of Doctor of Education or the degree of Doctor of Engineering), will constitute the basic requirements for the degree. The degree plan must be filed with the Graduate and Professional School prior to the deadline imposed by the student’s college and no later than 90 days prior to the preliminary examination.

This proposed degree plan should be submitted through the online Document Processing Submission System located on the website http://ogsdpss.tamu.edu (http://ogsdpss.tamu.edu/). A minimum of 64 hours is required on the degree plan for the Doctor of Philosophy for a student who has completed a master’s degree. A student who has completed a DDS/DMD, DVM or a MD at a U.S. institution is also required to complete a minimum of 64 hours. A student who has completed a baccalaureate degree but not a master’s degree will be required to complete a 96-hour degree plan. Completion of a DDS/DMD, DVM or MD degree at a foreign institution requires completion of a minimum of 96 hours for the Doctor of Philosophy. A field of study may be primarily in one department or in a combination of departments. A degree plan must carry a reasonable amount of 691 (research).

Additional coursework may be added by petition to the approved degree plan by the student’s advisory committee if it is deemed necessary to correct deficiencies in the student’s academic preparation. No changes can be made to the degree plan once the student’s Request for Final Examination is approved by the Graduate and Professional School.

Approval to enroll in any professional course (900-level) should be obtained from the head of the department (or Chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable) in which the course will be offered before including such a course on a degree plan.

No credit may be obtained by correspondence study, by extension or for any course of fewer than three weeks duration.

For non-distance degree programs, no more than four courses may be taken by distance education without approval of GPS and no more than 50 percent of the non-research credit hours required for the program may be completed through distance education courses.

To receive a graduate degree from Texas A&M University, students must earn one-third or more of the credits through the institution’s own direct instruction. This limitation also applies to joint degree programs.

Transfer of Credit

Courses for which transfer credits are sought must have been completed with a grade of B or greater and must be approved by the student’s advisory committee and the Graduate and Professional School. These courses must not have been used previously for another degree. Except for officially approved cooperative doctoral programs, credit for thesis or dissertation research or the equivalent is not transferable. Credit for “internship” coursework in any form is not transferable. Courses taken in residence at an accredited U.S. institution or approved international institution with a final grade of B or greater will be considered for transfer credit if, at the time the courses were completed, the courses would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for a student in degree-seeking status at the host institution. Credit for coursework taken by extension is not transferable. Coursework in which no formal grades are given or in which grades other than letter grades (A or B) are earned (for example, CR, P, S, U, H, etc.) is not accepted for transfer credit. Credit for coursework submitted for transfer from any college or university must be shown in semester credit hours, or equated to semester credit hours.

Courses used toward a degree at another institution may not be applied for graduate credit. If the course to be transferred was taken prior to the conferral of a degree at the transfer institution, a letter from the registrar at that institution stating that the course was not applied for credit toward the degree must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School.

Grades for courses completed at other institutions are not included in computing the GPA. An official transcript from the university at which transfer courses are taken must be sent directly to the Office of Admissions.

Research Proposal

The general field of research to be used for the dissertation should be agreed on by the student and the advisory committee at their first meeting, as a basis for selecting the proper courses to support the proposed research.

As soon thereafter as the research project can be outlined in reasonable detail, the dissertation research proposal should be completed. The research proposal should be approved at a meeting of the student’s advisory committee, at which time the feasibility of the proposed research and the adequacy of available facilities should be reviewed. The approved proposal, signed by all members of the student’s advisory committee, the head of the student’s major department (or chair of the interdisciplinary faculty, if applicable), must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School at least 20 working days prior to the submission of the Request for the Final Examination.

Compliance issues must be addressed if a graduate student is performing research involving human subjects, animals, infectious biohazards and recombinant DNA. A student involved in these types of research should check with the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety at (979) 458-1467 to address questions about all research compliance responsibilities. Additional information can also be obtained on the website http://rcb.tamu.edu.

Examinations

Preliminary Examination for Doctoral Students

The student’s major department (or chair of the interdisciplinary degree program faculty, if applicable) and his or her advisory committee may require qualifying, cumulative or other types of examinations at any time deemed desirable. These examinations are entirely at the discretion of the department and the student’s advisory committee.

The preliminary examination is required. The preliminary examination for a doctoral student shall be given no earlier than a date at which the student is within 6 credit hours of completion of the formal coursework on the degree plan (i.e., all coursework on the degree plan except 681, 684, 690, 691, 692, 693, 695, 697, 791, or other graduate courses specifically designated as S/U in the course catalog). The student should complete the Preliminary Examination no later than the end of the semester following the completion of the formal coursework on the degree plan.

Preliminary Examination Format

The objective of preliminary examination is to evaluate whether the student has demonstrated the following qualifications:
The following list of eligibility requirements applies.

Checklist to ensure the student is eligible for the preliminary examination.

departmental representative or the advisory committee chair will review

Prior to commencing any component of the preliminary examination, a

Preliminary Examination Scheduling

The format of the preliminary examination shall be determined by the
student’s department (or interdisciplinary degree program, if applicable)
and advisory committee, and communicated to the student in advance of
the examination. The exam may consist of a written component, oral
component, or combination of written and oral components.

The preliminary exam may be administered by the advisory committee
or a departmental committee; herein referred to as the examination
committee.

Regardless of exam format, a student will receive an overall preliminary
exam result of pass or fail. The department (or interdisciplinary degree
program, if applicable) will determine how the overall pass or fail result
is determined based on the exam structure and internal department
procedures. If the exam is administered by the advisory committee,
each advisory committee member will provide a pass or fail evaluation
decision.

Only one advisory committee substitution is allowed to provide an
evaluation decision for a student’s preliminary exam, and it cannot be the
committee chair.

If a student is required to take, as a part of the preliminary examination,
a written component administered by a department or interdisciplinary
degree program, the department or interdisciplinary degree program
faculty must:

a. offer the examination at least once every six months. The
departmental or interdisciplinary degree program examination should be
announced at least 30 days prior to the scheduled examination date.

b. assume the responsibility for marking the examination satisfactory
or unsatisfactory, or otherwise graded, and in the case of unsatisfactory,
stating specifically the reasons for such a mark.

c. forward the marked examination to the chair of the student’s
advisory committee within one week after the examination.

Preliminary Examination Scheduling

Prior to commencing any component of the preliminary examination, a
departmental representative or the advisory committee chair will review
the eligibility criteria with the student, using the Preliminary Examination
Checklist to ensure the student is eligible for the preliminary examination.
The following list of eligibility requirements applies.

• Student is registered at Texas A&M University for a minimum of one
semester credit hour in the long semester or summer term during
which any component of the preliminary examination is held. If the
entire examination is held between semesters, then the student must
be registered for the term immediately preceding the examination.

• An approved degree plan is on file with the Graduate and Professional
School prior to commencing the first component of the examination.

• Student’s cumulative GPA is at least 3.000.

• Student’s degree plan GPA is at least 3.000.

• At the end of the semester in which at least the first component of
the exam is given, there are no more than 6 hours of coursework
remaining on the degree plan (except 681, 684, 690, 691, 692, 693,
695, 697, 791, or other graduate courses specifically designated as
S/U in the course catalog). The head of the student’s department (or
Chair of the Interdisciplinary Degree Program, if applicable) has the
authority to approve a waiver of this criterion.

Report of Preliminary Examination

Credit for the preliminary examination is not transferable in cases where a
student changes degree programs after passing a preliminary exam.

If a written component precedes an oral component of the preliminary
exam, the chair of the student’s examination committee is responsible
for making all written examinations available to all members of the
committee. A positive evaluation of the preliminary exam by all members
of a student’s examination committee with at most one dissension is
required to pass a student on his or her preliminary exam.

The student’s department will promptly report the results of the
Preliminary Examination to the Graduate and Professional School via
the Report of Doctoral Preliminary Examination form. The Preliminary
Examination checklist form must also be submitted. These forms should
be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School within 10 working
days of completion of the preliminary examination.

The Report of the Preliminary Examination form must be submitted with
original signatures of the approved examination committee members.
If an approved examination committee member substitution (one
only) has been made, that signature must also be included, in place
of the committee member, on the form submitted to the Graduate and
Professional School. The original signature of the department head is
also required on the form.

After passing the required preliminary examination for the doctoral
degree, the student must complete the final examination for the degree
within four calendar years. Otherwise, the student will be required to
repeat the preliminary examination.

Retake of Failed Preliminary Examination

Upon approval of the student’s examination committee, with no
more than one member dissenting, and approval of the Graduate
and Professional School, a student who has failed the preliminary
examination may be given one re-examination. Adequate time must be
given to permit the student to address the inadequacies emerging from
the first preliminary examination. The examination committee must
agree upon and communicate in writing to the student, an adequate
time-frame from the first examination (normally six months) to retest,
as well as a detailed explanation of the inadequacies emerging from
the examination. The student and the committee should jointly negotiate
a mutually acceptable date for this retest. When providing feedback
on inadequacies, the committee should clearly document expected
improvements that the student must be able to exhibit in order to retake
the exam. The examination committee will document and communicate
the time-frame and feedback within 10 working days of the exam that
was not passed.

Final Examination for Doctoral Students

The candidate for the doctoral degree must pass a final examination
by deadline dates announced in the “Graduate and Professional School
Calendar" each semester. The doctoral student is allowed only one opportunity to take the final examination.

No unsolved grades of D, F, or U for any course can be listed on the degree plan. The student must be registered for any remaining hours of 681, 684, 690, 691, 692, 791 or other graduate courses specifically designated as S/U in the course catalog during the semester of the final exam. No student may be given a final examination until they have been admitted to candidacy and their current official cumulative and degree plan GPAs are 3.00 or better.

To be admitted to candidacy for a doctoral degree, a student must have:

1. completed all formal coursework on the degree plan with the exception of any remaining 681, 684, 690 and 691, 692 (Professional Study), or 791 hours,
2. a 3.0 Graduate GPA and a Degree Plan GPA of at least 3.0 with no grade lower than C in any course on the degree plan,
3. passed the preliminary examination,
4. submitted an approved dissertation proposal,
5. met the residence requirements.

The request to hold and announce the final examination must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School a minimum of 10 working days in advance of the scheduled date. Any changes to the degree plan must be approved by the Graduate and Professional School prior to the submission of the request for final examination.

The student's advisory committee will conduct this examination. The final examination is not to be administered until the dissertation or record of study is available in substantially final form to the student's advisory committee, and all concerned have had adequate time to review the document. Whereas the final examination may cover the broad field of the candidate's training, it is presumed that the major portion of the time will be devoted to the dissertation and closely allied topics. Persons other than members of the graduate faculty may, with mutual consent of the candidate and the chair of the advisory committee, be invited to attend a final examination for an advanced degree. A positive vote by all members of the graduate committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his or her exam. A department can have a stricter requirement provided there is consistency within all degree programs within a department. Upon completion of the questioning of the candidate, all visitors must excuse themselves from the proceedings.

Report of Final Examination
The student's department will promptly report the results of the Final Examination to the Graduate and Professional School via the Report of Doctoral Final Examination form. These forms should be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School within 10 working days of completion of the final examination. The Graduate and Professional School must be notified in writing of any cancellations.

A positive evaluation of the final exam by all members of a student's advisory committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his or her final exam. The Report of the Final Examination Form must be submitted with original signatures of only the committee members approved by the Graduate and Professional School. If necessary, multiple copies of the form may be submitted with different committee member original signatures. If an approved committee member substitution (1 only) has been made, his/her signature must be included on the form submitted to the Graduate and Professional School.

Dissertation
The ability to perform independent research must be demonstrated by the dissertation, which must be the original work of the candidate. Whereas acceptance of the dissertation is based primarily on its scholarly merit, it must also exhibit creditable literary workmanship. The format of the dissertation must be acceptable to the Graduate and Professional School. Guidelines for the preparation of the dissertation are available in the Thesis Manual, which is available online at https://grad.tamu.edu.

After successful defense and approval by the student's advisory committee and the head of the student's major department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), a student must submit his/her dissertation in electronic format as a single PDF file. The PDF file must be uploaded to the website, https://grad.tamu.edu. Additionally, a signed paper approval form with original signatures must be received by the Graduate and Professional School. Both the PDF file and the signed approval form are required by the deadline.

Deadline dates for submitting are announced each semester or summer term in the Graduate and Professional School Calendar (see Time Limit statement). These dates also can be accessed via the website https://grad.tamu.edu.

Each student who submits a document for review is assessed a one-time thesis/dissertation processing fee through Student Business Services. This processing fee is for the thesis/dissertation services provided. After commencement, dissertations are digitally stored and made available through the Texas A&M Libraries.

A dissertation that is deemed unacceptable by the Graduate and Professional School because of excessive corrections will be returned to the student's department head or chair of the intercollegiate faculty. The manuscript must be resubmitted as a new document, and the entire review process must begin anew. All original submittal deadlines must be met during the resubmittal process in order to graduate.

Additional Requirements

Additional Requirements

• Residence (p. 4)
• Time Limit (p. 5)
• Continuous Registration (p. 5)
• Admission to Candidacy (p. 5)
• Languages (p. 5)
• 99-Hour Cap on Doctoral Degree (p. 5)
• Application for Degree (p. 6)

Residence
A student who enters the doctoral degree program with a baccalaureate degree must spend one academic year plus one semester in resident study at Texas A&M University. A student who holds master's degree when he/she enters doctoral degree program must spend one academic year in resident study. One academic year may include two adjacent regular semesters or one regular semester and one adjacent 10-week summer semester. The third semester is not required to be adjacent to the one year. Enrollment for each semester must be a minimum of 9 credit hours each to satisfy the residence requirement.
To be admitted to candidacy for a doctoral degree, a student must have:

- Admission to Candidacy status/expectations-general-degree-requirements/registration-academic-registration Requirements have been completed. See Registration.
- Continuous Registration requirements/registration-academic-status/continuous-registration/continuous-registration

A student in a program leading to a Doctor of Philosophy who has met the residence requirements. The final examination will not be authorized for any doctoral student who has not been admitted to candidacy.

**Languages**

A student is required to possess a competent command of English. For English language proficiency requirements, see the Admissions section of this catalog. The doctoral (PhD) foreign language requirement at Texas A&M University will be considered valid until 10 years after the end of the semester in which it is taken. Graduate credit for coursework more than ten calendar years old at the time of the final oral examination may not be used to satisfy degree requirements.

After passing the required preliminary oral and written examinations for a doctoral degree, the student must complete the final examination within four calendar years. Otherwise, the student will be required to repeat the preliminary examination.

A final corrected version of the dissertation or record of study in electronic format as a single PDF file must be cleared by the Graduate and Professional School no later than one year after the final examination or within the 10-year time limit, whichever occurs first. Failure to do so will result in the degree not being awarded.

**Continuous Registration**

A student in a program leading to a Doctor of Philosophy who has completed all coursework on his/her degree plan other than 691 (research) are required to be in continuous registration until all requirements for the degree have been completed. See Continuous Registration Requirements (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/registration-academic-status/continuous-registration/continuous-registration).

**Admission to Candidacy**

To be admitted to candidacy for a doctoral degree, a student must have:

1. completed all formal coursework on the degree plan with the exception of any remaining 681, 684, 690 and 691, or 791.
2. a 3.0 Graduate GPA and a Degree Plan GPA of at least 3.0 with no grade lower than C in any course on the degree plan,
3. passed the preliminary examination (written and oral portions),
4. submitted an approved dissertation proposal,
5. met the residence requirements. The final examination will not be authorized for any doctoral student who has not been admitted to candidacy.

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1. completed all formal coursework on the degree plan with the exception of any remaining 681, 684, 690 and 691, or 791.
2. a 3.0 Graduate GPA and a Degree Plan GPA of at least 3.0 with no grade lower than C in any course on the degree plan,
3. passed the preliminary examination (written and oral portions),
4. submitted an approved dissertation proposal,
• Oral Biology

The hour limit for these majors is 130 doctoral hours

**Application for Degree**

For information on applying for your degree, please visit the Graduation (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/degree-requirements/#graduation) section.