

ANTHROPOLOGY (ANTH)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Behavioral and Social Sciences

Abstract

The Department of Anthropology at the University of Maryland offers graduate study leading to the Master of Applied Anthropology (M.A.A.), the Master of Applied Anthropology and Master of Historic Preservation (M.A.A./M.H.P. Dual Degree), the Masters of Professional Studies in Cultural and Heritage Resource Management (M.P.S. (CHRM)), and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees. Our graduate degrees reflect the department's interest and expertise in applied anthropology—the application of anthropological knowledge, anthropology-in-use, and practicing anthropology—in a variety of institutional and community settings.

Current faculty members represent three subfields of the discipline (archaeology, socio-cultural anthropology, and genetic anthropology). Drawing their intellectual and applied orientations from training and application of the above subdisciplines, the department's faculty also recognize the need to identify topics or problems where the expertise of individual faculty members can be applied in a manner that integrates the subdisciplines. In this ongoing effort, the faculty has identified three areas of research concentration: Anthropology of Health, Anthropology of Environment, and Anthropology of Heritage. The areas can be thought to contain and generate research problems of interest to the faculty's experience and expertise within the subdisciplines. These problems can be addressed individually through socio-cultural anthropology and archaeology. However, the anthropological contribution to addressing these problems is enhanced by collaboration across subdiscipline interests and expertise.

The Master of Applied Anthropology (MAA) is a program designed both for students interested in an anthropology career outside of academia and for those who plan on continuing to a PhD. The program has been offered at the University of Maryland since 1984, and graduates have successfully secured employment or pursued doctoral work in a variety of fields, such as working in the areas of medical and health practice, urban and regional planning and development, community development, conservation and heritage resource development, cultural resource management, and historical archaeology. The focus of the MAA program has been to participate in the building of anthropological practice.

The dual degree Master's Program in Applied Anthropology and Historic Preservation is a holistic, comprehensive primer for a professional career in the research, understanding and preservation of cultural resources and heritage. The first of its kind in the United States, the new degree prepares students for the challenges—and increasing demand—of understanding, documenting and saving a wide range buildings, landscapes, sites and communities.

The graduate program in Cultural and Heritage Resource Management (CHRM) provides rigorous interdisciplinary training in the skills necessary to advance a career in cultural heritage resource management. CHRM graduate programs include a Master of Professional Studies or a Graduate Certificate. Built on a broad foundation including research methods, critical thinking, ethics, communication and technical writing, management techniques, and leadership skills, this program prepares professionals for employment or advancement with private contracting firms, governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations.

A major focus of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program is to direct research scholarship and to encourage theoretical and methodological advancement in such a way as to reflect upon the specific practices of anthropology, with the aim of improving those practices and thereby increasing the value and usefulness of the discipline. Doctoral students are typically prepared for research and development careers outside of academic settings, as well as for academic careers in anthropology departments and other disciplinary settings.

Financial Assistance

A limited number of Departmental Fellowships and Teaching Assistantships are available to qualified graduate students. Part-time employment related to department research is occasionally available.

Contact

Dr. Christina Getrich
Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Anthropology
0123A Woods Hall
4302 Chapel Lane
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
Telephone: 301.405.1424
Fax: 301.314.8305
Email: cgetrich@umd.edu

Nadine Dangerfield
Assistant Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Anthropology
1115 Woods Hall
4302 Chapel Lane
College Park, MD 20742
Telephone: 301.405.4737
Fax: 301.314.8305
Email: nadine@umd.edu

Website: <http://www.anth.umd.edu>

Courses: ANTH (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/anth/>)

Relationships: Applied Anthropology and Historic Preservation (AAHP) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/applied-anthropology-historic-preservation-aahp/>), Historic Preservation (HISP) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/historic-preservation-hisp/>), Cultural and Heritage Resource Management (MPCH) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/cultural-heritage-resource-management-mpch/>), Women's Studies (WMST) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/womens-studies-wmst/>)

ADMISSIONS

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- CV/Resume
- Description of Research/Work Experience (optional)
- Writing Sample
- Faculty of Interest
- Supplementary Application (see department for details)

If you're interested in applying for the M.A.A./M.H.P. program, please see the AAHP program here: <https://gradschool.umd.edu/architectureplanningpreservation/aahp> (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/architectureplanningpreservation/aahp/>)

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	December 3, 2026
International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants	December 3, 2026

RESOURCES AND LINKS:

Program Website: [anth.umd.edu](http://www.anth.umd.edu) (<http://www.anth.umd.edu>)

Application Process: <https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions> (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/>)

REQUIREMENTS

- Anthropology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/anthropology-anth/anthropology-phd/>)
- Anthropology, Master of Applied Anthropology (M.A.A.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/anthropology-anth/anthropology-maa/>)
- Cultural and Heritage Resource Management, Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/cultural-heritage-resource-management-mpch/cultural-heritage-resource-management-mps/>)

FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

The Anthropology department has eight labs in Woods Hall. Lab sections for Introduction to Ecological & Evolutionary Anthropology and other courses are held in the Anthropology Teaching Lab. Three archaeology labs that contain materials collected from field schools and research projects of the past several years, serve both teaching and research purposes. The Evolutionary Anthropology and Genetics and the Archaeogenetics laboratories use cutting-edge equipment and molecular methods for the study of human evolution, ancestry, and global migrations through DNA extraction, amplification, and sequencing from modern and ancient sources. The Qualitative Research Lab provides dedicated space and technology for conducting in-person/virtual/hybrid group data collection activities (such as community meetings and focus groups) as well as one-on-one interviews with research participants in a private setting. The Quantitative Lab is a space for collaborative analysis of quantitative, spatial, and other forms of digital data. The Lab includes

workstations, instructional space, and secure cabinets for storing and sharing field equipment.