

## Introduction

Anthropology studies human biological and cultural diversity through time and space and the interplay between culture and biology. It encompasses our closest relatives and the human experience from our earliest known bipedal ancestors to the contemporary world, from the smallest human groups to empires and multinational corporations. Anthropologists explore the lives of prehistoric, historic, and contemporary peoples and address such topics as human evolution, subsistence and settlement systems, family, urban development, health, transnationalism, globalization, social conflict, gender, symbolic systems, and human ecology. Anthropologists apply the knowledge gained from diverse theoretical perspectives to practical human problems in settings such as medical care, educational development, and natural and cultural resource management. As scholars, we are committed to the highest quality teaching in the classroom and the field; to ongoing research both in Portland and abroad; and to active engagement in wider university and community programs.

The graduate curriculum in Anthropology is designed to develop an understanding of human life from these various perspectives. It does this by providing graduate level overviews of three subfields of the discipline in the Graduate Core Seminars (Anth 511, 550, and 570). Students specialize in an area, developing professional competency in one or more of the subfields of biological anthropology, archaeology, or socio-cultural anthropology. During five terms of course-work, students take classes in anthropology and other disciplines related to their fields of study, learning content as well as methodology. In conversation with their faculty advisers, students develop a proposal for a research project or an applied research project, execute the project, write a thesis about the project, and defend the thesis publically. By the end of the program, students will display mastery in the following areas:

## Graduate Program Learning Outcomes

1. Communication. Students will master communication in a number of modalities
  - a. Writing.
    - i. Students will demonstrate a sophisticated ability to find, analyze, synthesize, evaluate, and use theories, scholarly writings, and anthropological data from academic sources in their own writing and research.
    - ii. Students will present data and formulate coherent, persuasive arguments based on original research at a professional level for diverse audiences
    - iii. Students will demonstrate mastery of the writing conventions suitable for their chosen subfield of anthropology and for their chosen presentation milieu, which may include research proposals, reports, applied deliverables, and a graduate thesis.

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