

PH.D. IN ANTHROPOLOGY



The Ph.D. in Anthropology at CSU supports advanced coursework and research with a focus on place, space, and adaptation. Students achieve this perspective on the discipline by engaging with a curriculum infused with geographic methods and approaches. This program provides students with the skills and expertise to address research questions that 1) sit at the intersection of anthropology and geography, 2) apply geographic methods to anthropological questions, and 3) critically evaluate the impact of place and space on human/ecosystem adaptation.

Admitted students are generally recommended for three years of funding, dependent on available resources. Funding is typically in the form of graduate teaching assistantships which cover the cost of tuition and provide a monthly stipend. All applicants to the PhD anthropology program are automatically considered for these assistantships. Seed grants for graduate research are provided by the Anthropology Scholarship Endowment on a competitive basis, and Student Research Scholarships are available to support research as well as travel to conferences. Students are also expected to obtain funding from outside resources to support their dissertation research.

CSU Anthropology and Geography is ranked #5 among U.S. Anthropology Programs in Research Funding and Spending, according to data from the latest National Science Foundation Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey.

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

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

1. Explain anthropological and geographic theory to develop original research questions that advance knowledge of human and environmental systems.
2. Apply advanced qualitative, quantitative, and geospatial methods to analyze anthropological data across temporal and spatial scales.
3. Design and conduct independent, ethical, and rigorous research that produces an original scholarly contribution to anthropology.
4. Articulate complex research findings clearly and effectively to academic, professional, and public audiences.
5. Demonstrate professional leadership through interdisciplinary collaboration, mentoring, and active participation in scholarly communities.

Requirements Effective Fall 2026

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
ANTH 500	Development of Anthropological Theory	3
Select one course from the following:		3
ANTH 617	Place, Space and Adaptation	
ANTH 650/ ESS 650	Edge Effects–Place, Embodiment, Environment	
Method Courses – 6 credits total		6
Select at least 3 credits in ANTH method courses:		
ANTH 372	Human Osteology	
ANTH 438	Approaches to Community-Based Development	
ANTH 441	Method in Cultural Anthropology	
ANTH 442	Ethnographic Field School	
ANTH 443	Ethnographic Field Methods	
ANTH 444	Cultures of Virtual Worlds–Research Methods	
ANTH 449	Community Development from the Ground Up	
ANTH 465	Zooarchaeology	
ANTH 475	Methods of Analysis in Paleoanthropology	
ANTH 501	Psychiatric Anthropology Laboratory	
ANTH 502	Cultural Analysis of Qualitative Data	
ANTH 503	Cognitive Anthropology Field Methods	
ANTH 504	Cultural Analysis of Personal Networks	
ANTH 507	Ethnographic Discourse Analysis	
ANTH 530	Human-Environment Interactions	
ANTH 541	Seminar in Archaeological Method	
ANTH 543	Foundations of Ethnographic Research	
ANTH 544	From Death to Discovery	
ANTH 545	Global Mental Health–Theory and Method	
ANTH 554/ ESS 554	Ecological and Social Agent-based Modeling	
ANTH 556	Bayesian Chronologies in Archaeology	
ANTH 566	Field Methods Training in Online Environments	
ANTH 573	Paleoclimate and Human Evolution	
ANTH 660	Field Archaeology	
ANTH 674	Research Design and Analysis in Anthropology	
ANTH 686	Practicum-Field Archaeology	
Select at least 3 credits in GR method courses:		
GR 311	GIS for Social Scientists	
GR 420	Spatial Analysis with GIS	
GR 430	Land Change Science and Remote Sensing	
GR 431	Land Change Science Lab	
GR 503/NR 503	Remote Sensing and Image Analysis	
ANTH 525	Abolition Methodologies	
Theory/Topical electives – 9 credits total (Select at least 3 credits from three of the four categories below) ¹		9

Depending on specific content covered, the following courses could satisfy any of the 3 anthropology (ANTH) sub-disciplines below:

ANTH 684	Supervised College Teaching
ANTH 692	Seminar
ANTH 792	Special Topics in Anthropology
ANTH 795	Independent Study

Archaeology courses:

ANTH 542	Seminar in Archaeological Theory
ANTH 550A	Regional Prehistory: Great Plains
ANTH 551	Historical Archaeology
ANTH 552	Geoarchaeology
ANTH 553	Archaeology of Complex Societies
ANTH 555	Paleoindian Archaeology
ANTH 660	Field Archaeology
ANTH 686	Practicum-Field Archaeology

Biological Anthropology courses:

ANTH 570	Contemporary Issues-Biological Anthropology
ANTH 571	Anthropology and Global Health
ANTH 572	Human Origins
ANTH 575	Paleoecology

Cultural Anthropology courses:

ANTH 505	Resilience, Well-Being, and Social Justice
ANTH 506	Anthropology of Happiness and the Good Life
ANTH 515	Culture and Environment
ANTH 520	Women, Health, and Culture
ANTH 521	Gender, Sexuality, and Culture
ANTH 528	Economic Anthropology
ANTH 529	Anthropology and Sustainable Development
ANTH 532	The Culture of Disaster
ANTH 535	Globalization and Culture Change
ANTH 538	Food, Hunger, and Culture
ANTH 540	Medical Anthropology
ANTH 543	Foundations of Ethnographic Research
ANTH 545	Global Mental Health—Theory and Method
ANTH 546	Culture, Mind, and Cognitive Science
ANTH 547	Mind, Medicine, and Culture
ANTH 548	Theoretical Topics in Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 679/IE 679	Applications of International Development

Geography courses:

GR 410	Climate Change: Science, Policy, Implications
GR 415	The Geography of Commodities
GR 431	Land Change Science Lab
GR 440/POLS 440	Political Geography
GR 448	Forest Biogeography and Climate Change
GR 503/NR 503	Remote Sensing and Image Analysis
GR 548	Biogeography
GR 592	Special Topics in Geography

ANTH 650/ ESS 650	Edge Effects--Place, Embodiment, Environment	
Dissertation		
ANTH 799	Dissertation	12-15
Outside Department Elective (Select at least 3 credits from subject code other than ANTH or GR)		3
Additional Credits:		3-6
ANTH 684	Supervised College Teaching	
ANTH 692	Seminar	
ANTH 696	Group Study-Anthropological Theory	
ANTH 792	Special Topics in Anthropology	
ANTH 795	Independent Study	
Electives		
Master's Degree Credit (a maximum of 30 credits may be accepted from a master's degree)²		30
Program Total Credits:		72

A minimum of 72 credits are required to complete this program. Students must also complete comprehensive exams that will be assessed through written and/or oral examination by a PhD committee that includes an advisor, two internal faculty members, and one outside faculty member. The exam format is determined in consultation with an academic advisor with options for two 15 page essays that survey the student's chosen research topic, or an oral or written exam with questions provided by committee members one week in advance of the exam. Students must successfully defend a dissertation proposal that outlines research plans that are determined by the PhD committee to be both feasible and of the appropriate level of scholarship with research that will make a substantial contribution to the student's chosen topic. Upon completion of their research, students will submit a dissertation that consists of an introduction, at least three body chapters, and a concluding chapter. The body chapters can be formatted for publication in an academic journal, but this is not required. The final student evaluation is a public dissertation defense that includes a 45 minute presentation, followed by questions from the broader audience and a private discussion with the PhD committee. The committee will meet without the student present to evaluate the dissertation and provide feedback to the student that includes a pass/fail assessment and edits recommended for the final document.

¹ Students who completed one of more of these categories at the Masters level can petition the graduate committee to take the equivalent number of credits from a category of their choosing.

² Most students entering the Ph.D. program in anthropology will bring in 30 credits from a Master's program in a related field. The above curriculum represents a total of 42 credits beyond the Master's level. If a prospective student has less than 30 credits toward the program, an individualized curriculum plan will be developed by working with primary advisor that will cover possible anthropology deficiencies.

Requirements for All Graduate Degrees

For more information, please visit Requirements for All Graduate Degrees (<https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/graduate-bulletin/graduate-study/procedures-requirements-all-degrees/>) in the Graduate and Professional Bulletin (<https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/graduate-bulletin/>).

Summary of Procedures for the Master's and Doctoral Degrees

NOTE: Each semester the Graduate School publishes a schedule of deadlines. Deadlines are available on the Graduate School website (<https://graduateschool.colostate.edu/deadline-dates/>). Students should consult this schedule whenever they approach important steps in their careers.

Forms (<https://graduateschool.colostate.edu/forms/>) are available online.

Step	Due Date
1. Application for admission (online)	Six months before first registration
2. Diagnostic examination when required	Before first registration
3. Appointment of advisor	Before first registration
4. Selection of graduate committee	Before the time of fourth regular semester registration
5. Filing of program of study (GS Form 6)	Before the time of fourth regular semester registration
6. Preliminary examination (Ph.D. and PD)	Two terms prior to final examination
7. Report of preliminary examination (GS Form 16) - (Ph.D. and PD)	Within two working days after results are known
8. Changes in committee (GS Form 9A)	When change is made
9. Application for Graduation (GS Form 25)	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School Website
9a. Reapplication for Graduation (online)	Failure to graduate requires Reapplication for Graduation (online) for the next time term for which you are applying
10. Submit thesis or dissertation to committee	At least two weeks prior to the examination or at the discretion of the graduate committee
11. Final examination	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School Website
12. Report of final examination (GS Form 24)	Within two working days after results are known; refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School website
13. Submit a signed Thesis/ Dissertation Submission Form (GS Form 30) to the Graduate School and Submit the Survey of Earned Doctorates (Ph.D. only) prior to submitting the electronic thesis/ dissertation	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School website.
14. Submit the thesis/dissertation electronically	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School website
15. Graduation	Ceremony information is available from the Graduate School website