

# MA in Applied Anthropology

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Since its inception in the 1960s, the graduate program has been nationally recognized as a leader in applied anthropology. We define applied anthropology as research with practical application and impact, anchored in a rigorous foundation in anthropological theory and method --whether from cultural, biocultural, or medical anthropological, or bioarchaeological, historical archaeological, or archaeological perspectives, for example. With grounding in core anthropological and archaeological theory and method, we train our students to be skilled researchers who can traverse both academic and non-academic settings, bringing to their research a sound intellectual base, and skills for application and practice.

The M.A. degree in Applied Anthropology at UK is designed to train students to apply the theories, methods, and practices of anthropology to solve real world problems with community and organizational partners, and to prepare students for careers in different domains of application or for further graduate study. The program draws on the department's considerable research strengths in a variety of areas (see website for more information). Students completing the MA in Applied Anthropology are trained in anthropological theory and research methods and demonstrate analytical and application skills through either a thesis or a practicum.

## Admissions Requirements

If you are entering the Anthropology M.A. program without previous training in anthropology, you might want to read *Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology* (a free online textbook available at <http://perspectives.americananthro.org/>) and/or a text recommended by your advisor (e.g., Charles Orser's 2016 text *Historical Archaeology*) prior to your first semester.

## Degree Requirements

The degree completion requires 30 credits of coursework. The M.A. in Applied Anthropology Plan A requires the completion and oral presentation of a thesis. Plan B requires a written report based on a practicum. The thesis or practicum is completed with the guidance of a committee of three faculty members, including your advisor(s), also called your committee chair. The final examination for the Master's degree is an oral presentation of the thesis or practicum project to

the department. Plan A students must also file a thesis with the Graduate School following these guidelines: <https://gradschool.uky.edu/thesis-dissertation-preparation-by-the-required-deadline>. There is no foreign language requirement for the Master's degree in applied anthropology.

All students are required to complete these two courses as part of the 30-hour MA in Applied Anthropology curriculum:

ANT 525 Applied Anthropology (3 hours)

ANT 610 History of Theory in Anthropology (3 hours)

The other required credit hours of the curriculum are free electives decided on by the student with the advisor (first semester) and committee (once formed), following these Graduate School requirements *and* the Plan A or Plan B requirements for the degree:

20 hours of regular coursework (not independent studies or thesis credits, for example) need to be completed in Anthropology courses.

At least 10 hours of that regular coursework needs to be at the 600- or 700-level.

*If a Plan A student*, 24 hours of regular coursework is required, plus 6 hours of thesis credits (ANT 768, Residence Credit for the Master's Degree) while researching and writing the thesis. Thesis work, per the Graduate School, may not be done in regular coursework or independent study courses, but through enrollment in ANT 768. If a student has not completed the thesis within the 6 hours of ANT 768, then with permission it is possible to further register for ANT 748 (Masters Thesis Research) if working at least half-time on the MA thesis. This conveys zero credit hours but full-time student status. The Anthropology Department strongly encourages students and advisors to design thesis projects which can be completed within the 6 hours of ANT 768, for timely progress to degree.

*If a Plan B student*, the 30 hours of coursework for the MA in Applied Anthropology must include 6 hours of ANT 760 (Practicum in Applied Anthropology). The practicum is carried out with the guidance of the advisor and committee after completion of a practicum contract signed by the student, advisor and a representative of the organization with which the student is doing the practicum. A written report about the practicum is submitted to the committee in association with the oral exam for the MA (a public presentation in the department), as noted above, but that report is not turned in to the Graduate School (as theses must be).

### **Sample Plan of Study for Plan A (thesis) student**

First semester:

ANT 610 History of Theory in Anthropology (3 credits)

ANT 525 Applied Anthropology (3 credits)

ANT 545 Historical Archaeology (3 credits)

Second semester:

ANT 650 Theory in Archaeology (3 credits)  
ANT 651 Archaeological Data Analysis (3 credits)  
HP 601 Introduction to Historic Preservation (3 credits)

Third semester:

ANT 585 Field Laboratory in Archaeological Research (3 credits)  
HP 602 Historic Preservation Law (3 credits)  
ANT 768 Residence Credit for the Masters Degree (3 credits)

Fourth semester:

ANT 768 Residence Credit for the Masters Degree (3 credits)

Follow the guidelines for thesis presentation to the department as oral exam and prepare thesis for the Graduate School. If additional semesters are needed to complete the thesis, permission would need to be granted to enroll in ANT 748 (Masters Thesis Research) for no credit but full-time status if 50%+ time is going into work on thesis.

### **Sample Plan of Study for Plan B (practicum) student**

First semester:

ANT 525 Applied Anthropology (3 credits)  
ANT 610 History of Theory in Anthropology (3 credits)  
ANT 736 Culture, Environment and Development (3 credits)

Second semester:

ANT 660 Ethnographic Research (3 credits)  
ANT 536 Global Appalachia (3 credits)  
SOC 720 Race, Racism and Representation (3 credits)

Third semester:

ANT 760 Practicum in Applied Anthropology (6 credits)  
ANT 734 Seminar in Economic Anthropology (3 credits)  
SW 521 Understanding Poverty, Inequality and Injustice (3 credits)

Follow the guidelines for the practicum presentation as MA oral exam and provide written report to the committee before that oral exam.

Please see the MA degree page on the Anthropology Department website for regularly updated suggested curricular pathways for diverse career options and more information on possible careers for those earning the MA in Applied Anthropology degree.