M.A., Ph.D. PROGRAM GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND COMPETENCIES

The following student learning goals (SLG), objectives, and expected competencies emanate from our model of training.

**Goal 1: Creative and Critical Reasoning**

All graduate students completing the MA or PhD in Anthropology will engage in a variety of activities designed to develop a student’s ability to:

- **Objective 1A:** Demonstrate the ability to present a professional, peer-to-peer level, written discussion of the role of their area of specialization within the broader historical and contemporary field of general anthropological theory.

- **Objective 1B:** Ability to present a professional, peer-to-peer level, written discussion of the relevance of their specific research project to the goals of their area of specialization.

- **Objective 1C:** Able to present a professional, peer-to-peer level, written discussion, including reasoned opinions about, non-anthropological and/or non-academic social issues/concerns related to general anthropology as well as their area of specialization.

- **Objective 1D:** Demonstrate an understanding and ability to discuss the relevance of, ethical standards within the profession generally and their area of specialization in particular.

- **Objective 1E:** Formulate original ideas about their research topic, and are they able to relate these ideas to those of other scholars in the relevant literature.

**Goal 2: Information and Data Gathering**

All graduate students completing the MA or PhD in Anthropology will engage in a variety of activities designed to develop a student’s ability to:

- **Objective 2A:** Demonstrate expertise in knowledge of the historical background, current trends, and major leaders in the field(s) of research relevant to their area of specialization.

- **Objective 2B:** Demonstrate an understanding of the different types of traditionally published data and the strengths and weaknesses of such data.

- **Objective 2C:** Provide a well-reasoned explanation for their selection of data and analytical techniques.

- **Objective 2D:** Demonstrate an understanding of the differences between, and appropriate uses of, both qualitative and quantitative data.

- **Objective 2E:** Demonstrate the ability to apply systematic techniques in their data collection and analysis.

**Goal 3: Communication Skills**

All graduate students completing the MA or PhD in Anthropology will engage in a variety of activities designed to develop a student’s ability to:

- **Objective 3A:** Write a clear and concise statement defining their research topic.

- **Objective 3B:** Write an adequate contextual statement for their research topic.

- **Objective 3C:** Present a clear statement of their research methods.

- **Objective 3D:** Write a well-reasoned interpretation of their analysis.
**Objective 3E:** Write a unifying conclusion statement.

**Objective 3F:** Demonstrate a mastery of their area of specializations style and citation standards.

**Objective 3G:** Make a clear and concise verbal presentation before a professional audience that includes a statement of their topic, the context of their question, a description of their data and analysis, and a summary of their interpretations.

**Objective 3H:** Demonstrate the ability to respond adequately to questions from a professional audience.

**Goal 4: Analytical Reasoning**

All graduate students completing the MA or PhD in Anthropology will engage in a variety of activities designed to develop a student’s ability to:

**Objective 4A:** Demonstrate the ability to apply advanced systematic techniques or theory in their data analysis.

**Objective 4B:** Select appropriate quantitative or qualitative assessment techniques in-line with their research question.

**Objective 4C:** Discuss the strengths, weaknesses, limitations, etc. of their data selection and collection techniques (sample bias).

**Objective 4D:** Make reasonable interpretations from their theoretical perspective and/or analyses.

**Objective 4E:** Discuss reasonable alternative interpretations.

**Goal 5: Specialization of Study**

All graduate students completing the MA or PhD in Anthropology will engage in a variety of activities designed to develop a student’s ability to (note A-E expected and assessed for MA students, while A-G are expected and assessed for doctoral students):

**Objective 5A:** Demonstrate knowledge of the historical development of their topic and the broader academic, and non-academic contexts of their area of specialization.

**Objective 5B:** Formulate a reasonable question that is compatible with current trends within their defined field of specialization.

**Objective 5C:** Demonstrate an understanding of the range of types of data and analytical techniques appropriate to their area of specialization and their research question.

**Objective 5D:** Effectively consider how subjective and objective aspects of data identification, collection, and analysis may have shaped current thinking and their own interpretations within their area of specialization.

**Objective 5E:** Demonstrate a developed expertise in at least one area of methodology within their area of specialization.

**Objective 5F:** Demonstrate expertise in the environment, history, traditional and/or contemporary culture(s), and contemporary anthropological issues of a geographic region.

**Objective 5G:** Demonstrate competence in working with a specific theoretical focus.