

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.