Ph.D Degree Requirements

Students enter the Ph.D Program, based upon a vote of the faculty, at the time the M.A. degree is conferred or, if entering with a master’s degree, when all requirements demonstrating basic knowledge in the field of anthropology are completed.

The Ph.D degree requires further study in a more specialized branch of anthropology, requiring at least one further year of academic study. Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the discipline by successful completion of: (1) the Written Qualifying Examination administered by a three-member Departmental Doctoral Committee, (2) the Oral Qualifying Examination administered by a four-member PhD Doctoral Committee and, (3) the writing of an original dissertation based on original research. The dissertation is expected to be a significant contribution to anthropological literature and knowledge.

Students entering the program with an M.A

Students entering the program with an M.A degree, whether or not in anthropology, are required to demonstrate basic knowledge of the discipline before being advanced to the Ph.D Program. It is expected students will accomplish this during their first year of academic residence through, and in accordance with the procedures and regulations stated in the, M.A. Degree Requirements, the following:

- Nominating a three-member departmental advisory committee.
- Taking the graduate proseminar, Anthropology 200.
- Completing the core course requirements for their subfield:
  - Archaeology: Anthropology M201A, M201B, M201C
  - Biological: Anthropology 202A, 202B, 202C
  - Linguistic: Anthropology 204A, 204B
  - Sociocultural: Anthropology 203A, 203B, 203C
- Taking a graduate core seminar only in the student's field of specialization. This is required of all students regardless of whether or not they already have a master's degree in anthropology. In addition to the courses above, the following courses will be accepted toward meeting this requirement:
  - Archaeology: Anthropology 111
  - Linguistic: Anthropology 253, 252A
  - Sociocultural: Anthropology 130, 150
- Submitting a prior master's paper or a research paper that was written while in graduate status in their former M.A. program to the student's departmental advisory committee for evaluation.

Only when these requisites have been met are students permitted to begin the requirements for the Ph.D degree.

Students who completed the M.A in Anthropology at UCLA

Students who received their M.A. degree from the Department are expected to enroll in three seminars, each with a different faculty member, between receipt of the master's degree and taking the doctoral qualifying examinations.

Foreign Language Requirement
The department requires proficiency in a second language for all students in the Ph.D. program in Anthropology. It is the responsibility of the student's three-member departmental doctoral committee to determine what language(s) are required for their particular program of study.

If the requirement for second language proficiency is to be waived, students must prepare a request for a Ph.D language requirement waiver, which consists of a letter justifying the request, addressed to the committee. If alternate research skills are deemed necessary for the program of study for the student's dissertation have been identified and satisfied, these are noted by the committee. However, no specific other courses or skills are obligatory.

If foreign language proficiency is required, proficiency will be determined by the three-member departmental doctoral committee and may include but is not limited to:

- Completion of an appropriate level of language instruction, or
- Demonstration of previously acquired language skills through documentation or an examination or
- Submission of an annotated bibliography, in English, of selected publications (in the selected language) that are related to the student's dissertation topic. The bibliography may be supplemented by a related analytical examination question or further translation examination.

Written and Oral Qualifying Examinations

The qualifying examinations for the Ph.D degree consist of a written and an oral examination. The timing of these examinations is set in consultation with the members of the doctoral committee; they are to be taken within a 10-week period of time. Students must be registered and enrolled to take the qualifying examinations. The committee for each examination determines the conditions for reexamination should students not pass either portion of the qualifying examinations.

The three-member departmental doctoral committee administers the written portion of the qualifying examination. The fields and format of the examination are to be determined by the student's departmental doctoral committee. There must be a minimum of two weeks between completion of the written examination and the scheduled date for the oral portion of the qualifying examination.

The oral portion of the doctoral qualifying examinations is primarily a defense of the dissertation proposal. This examination is administered by the four-member doctoral committee.

Upon successful completion of the written and oral qualifying examinations, the student is advanced to doctoral candidacy.

Doctoral Dissertation

Doctoral candidates must complete an approved dissertation that demonstrates the student's ability to perform original, independent research, and constitutes a distinct contribution to knowledge in the principal field of study.

Final Oral Examination

The department does not require a final oral defense of the dissertation, however individual doctoral committees can institute this requirement if they deem it important to do so. This decision is made by the student’s doctoral committee.
Time to Degree

Students are expected to advance to doctoral candidacy in four years (12 quarters) and complete the doctoral program in six years (18 quarters) from the time since entering the doctoral program, whether or not they received a master’s degree from the department. Full-time students admitted without deficiencies normally progress after receiving the M.A. degree is as follows:

- Selection of three internal members of the doctoral committee: During second quarter
- Completion of foreign language requirement, unless exempted: End of third quarter
- Nomination of four-person doctoral committee: End of third quarter
- Written and oral qualifying examinations: End of sixth quarter
- Advancement to candidacy: End of sixth quarter
- Final oral examinations, if required: End of 18th quarter
- Filing of dissertation: End of 18th quarter