The Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M University offers students training in Biological Anthropology, a biologically-based science that deals with the adaptations, variability, and evolution of primates and human beings, including their living and fossil relatives. Texas A&M biological anthropologists draw on a wide range of theoretical perspectives and methodological techniques to investigate aspects of bioarchaeology, primatology, and hominin evolution across the Pliocene and Pleistocene.

Participating faculty include Drs. Sheela Athreya, Darryl de Ruiter, Sharon Gursky and Lori Wright. All of the faculty in the Biological Anthropology program utilize an interdisciplinary, scientific approach in our anthropological research. The Biological Anthropology program is organized around three principal research themes:

*Behavioral ecology and conservation of non-human primates*, focusing on the relationship between group living and ecological pressures such as predation and the temporal distribution of resources, as well as primate conservation.

*Bioarchaeology, paleodiet and paleopathology of human skeletal remains*, examining the relationship between culture and biology in ancient human societies through study of skeletal growth and development, health, and bone chemical analysis of diet.

*Paleoanthropological investigation of Pliocene and Pleistocene hominins*, including Middle Pleistocene Homo in Europe and Asia as well as the South African australopithecines and their surrounding animal paleocommunities.

Our interdisciplinary, scientific approach to the study of primates, humans, and their fossil ancestors provides broad-based training in all aspects of biological anthropology. Today our faculty direct field- and laboratory-based projects in many areas of the world, including North and Central America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Graduate student training is theoretically and methodologically based. All students must complete a core curriculum course in biological anthropology, and are expected to become proficient in a range of theoretical topics including the principles of evolution and natural selection, human variation, molecular and population genetics, bioarchaeology, and primatology. Because of the diverse nature of biological anthropological research conducted by our faculty, students are exposed to a wide range of field- and laboratory-based techniques and research questions. Thus, graduate-level dissertation research can be either field-based, laboratory-based, or a combination of the two. Recent graduates and current students in biological anthropology have been actively engaged in field projects in the USA, Indonesia, Denmark, Brazil, Guatemala, South Africa and Botswana. Students in biological anthropology are expected to develop and design original research projects that are both theoretically and methodologically sound. Particular emphasis is given to obtaining external research funding, and to publication of original research in leading peer-reviewed journals.
BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY PROGRAM BASIC INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Mission statement

The BA Program in Anthropology is dedicated to providing students with a broad-based education exploring the cultural and biological diversity of modern humans and their closest living relatives, the primates, as well as the evolutionary history of both of these groups. Encompassing four areas of specialization (archaeology, cultural anthropology, biological anthropology and nautical archaeology), students are prepared to encounter, expand and disseminate knowledge about humans and other primates from a global perspective. Faculty encourage creativity and diversity in views, while at the same time fostering research, analytical and creative thinking skills, ultimately leading to a flexible, well-rounded liberal arts education.

Biological anthropology endeavors to position humanity within the broader context of the modern animal world through investigation of the evolutionary biology and history of the human and broader primate lineage, as well as examination of the influence of culture on human biology. This goal is reflected by the faculty of the Biological Anthropology Program in their dedication to providing a broad-based educational experience encompassing virtually all theoretical aspects of the field.

On a practical level, the aim of the faculty of the Biological Anthropology Program is to place top-caliber graduates in leading academic institutions. These future colleagues will be experienced not only in obtaining competitive grants from national agencies, but also in publishing the results of their research in top peer-reviewed journals.

Membership

Four faculty members with primary affiliation with the Biological Anthropology Program: Athreya, de Ruiter, Gursky, Wright.

Biological Anthropology Program Expertise

Regional

- Africa
  - South Africa
  - Botswana
  - Madagascar
- Asia
  - India
  - Indonesia
  - China
  - Central Asia
- Europe
  - Eastern Europe
  - Central Europe
  - Western Europe
- Mesoamerica
  - Guatemala
  - Belize
  - Mexico
Temporal
- Pliocene
- Pleistocene
- Holocene

Methodological
- Archaeological field techniques
- Isotope ecology
- Paleopathology
- Primate behavioral ecology
- Primate conservation
- Primatological field techniques
- Quantitative methods
- Phylogeny reconstruction
- Geometric morphometrics
- Human osteology
- Zooarchaeology

Biological Anthropology Program Research Themes

These three themes reflect the strengths and interests of the Biological Anthropology Program faculty.

I. Bioarchaeology – Wright
- paleodiet
- paleopathology
- Mesoamerica
- mortuary archaeology
- inequality
- migration
- dental anthropology

II. Paleoanthropology – Athreya, de Ruiter
- middle Pleistocene hominin evolution and systematics
- Quantitative methods
- craniofacial biology
- modern human variation
- history of physical anthropology
- cranio-dental and post-cranial anatomy of early hominins
- zooarchaeology
- taphonomy
- animal paleocommunity ecology of South African australopiths
- isotope ecology of modern and ancient African ecosystems

III. Primatology – Gursky
- behavioral ecology
- conservation
- predation
- primates
- mammals
- nocturnality
- lunar cycles
**Resources/Facilities** – Biological Anthropology Program
  Biological Anthropology Laboratory
  Zooarchaeology Laboratory

**Resources/Facilities** – Affiliated Programs
  Center for the Study of the First Americans
  Collections Facility
  Lithics laboratory
  Palynology laboratory

  Ceramics laboratory
  Geoarchaeology laboratory
  Paleoethnobotany laboratory
  Genetics program

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Biological Anthropology Program**

**Regular Duties**
1) Elect Program Coordinator and Committee representatives.
2) Review graduate applications for admission to Graduate Program.
3) Review applications for graduate assistantships from students in Biological Anthropology Program and make recommendations to the Curriculum Committee.
4) Review new course proposals, curriculum plans, and coordinate class schedules each semester.
5) Conduct annual reviews of graduate students and forward these reviews to the Curriculum committee.
6) Special situations.

**Periodic Duties**
1) Provide search committee chair and recommendations for new hires to the Biological Anthropology Program.
2) Provide chair for tenure and promotion cases in the Program.

**Calendar of Meetings**
A minimum of four times per year:

**August**
1) Review biological anthropology courses for the following Spring semester. This includes existing courses to be taught as well as proposed 489/689 courses.

**December**
1) Review biological anthropology courses for the following Fall. This includes existing courses to be taught as well as proposed 489/689 courses. (Due late January).
2) General review of program.

**January/February**
1) Review student applications for admission to our graduate program (Due late January).
2) Review applications for graduate student assistantships
3) Conduct annual review of graduate students (Due March).
April
1) Pick representatives for a) Coordinator of the Program; b) Executive Council Representative; and c) Curriculum Committee Representative (2 year term). (Due late August/early September)

ACADEMICS

The Biological Anthropology Program faculty offer a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses.

Undergraduate Curriculum

The Biological Anthropology Program teaches a variety of courses dealing with method and theory as relates to ancient humans, early hominins and primates. These are designed to fill a range of needs from providing a general background in the field of biological anthropology to in depth training to prepare students for graduate studies. For a specific list of requirements for a degree in Anthropology, see the undergraduate catalog.

The Biological Anthropology Program strongly urges undergraduate students wishing to continue at the graduate level to take at least 4 semesters of foreign language training at the undergraduate level. This training will help satisfy foreign language requirements at the graduate level.

List of Biological Anthropology Courses

Undergraduate courses regularly taught by Biological Anthropology faculty:

- ANTH 201 – Introduction to Anthropology
- ANTH 225 – Biological Anthropology
- ANTH 308 – Archaeology of Mesoamerica
- ANTH 312 – Fossil Evidence for Human Evolution
- ANTH 405 – Introduction to the Primates
- ANTH 423 – Bioarchaeology
- ANTH 425 – Osteology
- ANTH 427 – Human Variation
- ANTH 489 – Science, Pseudoscience and Critical Thinking in Anthropology

Recommended undergraduate courses taught by non-Biological Anthropology Faculty (this list is not exhaustive, but reflects research interests allied to Biological Anthropology faculty)

- ANTH 350 – Archaeology of the Old World
- ANTH 401 – Ice Age Humans
- ANTH 446 Ceramic Artifact Analysis
- ANTH 447 Lithic Artifact Analysis
- ANTH 489-A – Hunter-Gatherers around the World
- ANTH 489-H – Ecological Anthropology
Graduate Curriculum

The Biological Anthropology Program in the Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M University is designed to train professional biological anthropologists that will go on to fill positions in academia, government, and the private sector. The Biological Anthropology Program offers both Masters and Doctoral degrees, but places a strong emphasis on students wishing to obtain the PhD as their ultimate objective; we do not regularly admit students seeking only the MA. Students entering the PhD program with the MA in hand obtain only the PhD from Texas A&M University, while students without the MA in hand may opt to obtain the MA as a step toward the PhD.

The following sets forth the requirements for all students pursuing a PhD degree in the Biological Anthropology Program; the PhD program is sub-divided into categories for students entering the program with the MA and for students entering without the MA.

All Biological Anthropology students are required to take ANTH 601; there are no exceptions. Students from other programs may petition to waive ANTH 601 if they have taken an equivalent graduate level course at another institution; students from other programs granted such a waiver must take another Biological Anthropology class instead.

Students should consult the Department of Anthropology website for full documentation regarding requirements for obtaining a graduate degree. The requirements listed below pertain only to the coursework required by the Biological Anthropology Program.

Coursework requirements for the Biological Anthropology Program

Students working toward the PhD degree must satisfy one of the following two schedules: students entering without the MA are required to take at least 96 credit hours; students entering with the appropriate MA degree are required to take at least 64 credit hours. Language requirement is not included in the total number of hours required for graduation. Each Track is subdivided according to research themes with Biological Anthropology.

TRACK 1: Entering the PhD program without the MA degree. Students have the option to earn a non-thesis MA degree as they progress toward the PhD degree. Note that exercising this option requires de-registering from the PhD program at the end of the second year, and re-registering as an MA student; the student then applies for readmission to the PhD program. Table 1 presents a summary of track requirements. 96 credit hours are required. Table 1.

TRACK 2: Entering the PhD program with the MA degree. Students enter the program with an MA in Anthropology or a related field approved by the Biological Anthropology Program from another institution. Table 2 presents a summary of track requirements. 64 Credit Hours required. Table 2.

Language Requirement: Proficiency in a foreign language is required to receive the PhD. Consult the Department of Anthropology Graduate Handbook for details. Credits earned at Texas A&M University to fulfill the language requirement do not count towards the credit hours needed for completion of the degree.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Core curriculum classes (ANTH 601, 602, 604)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 x Biological Anthropology classes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 x non-Anthropology class</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>1 x Biological Anthropology class</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 x Anthropology classes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ANTH 685 (major paper)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stat 651</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 x non-Anthropology class</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPTION to revert to MA to obtain non-thesis MA; requires permission of advisor and readmission to PhD program (does not require formal re-application process)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>ANTH 685 (1 hour – begin thesis proposal development)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MANA 901 (gross anatomy if required)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 x Anthropology classes (can include Biological or non-Anth)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>3 x ANTH 685 classes (prelim prep/prep for ANTH 638)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ANTH 638 (proposal development – spring semester)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 x ANTH 691 classes (dissertation research)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>6 x ANTH 691 (max 18 hours dissertation research)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>6 x ANTH 691 (max 18 hours dissertation research)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>108</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The grand total of hours of coursework is 108, which is the maximum allowed by Texas A&M University. Students may opt to register for fewer ANTH 691 hours in their 5th and 6th years. Students are required to take a minimum of 96 hours. In consultation with the advisor, students may take additional courses beyond the Track requirements.
Table 2. Summary of Track requirements for students entering PhD program WITH the MA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Core curriculum classes (ANTH 601, 602, 604)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>2 x Biological Anthropology classes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>1 x non-Anthropology class</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>2 x Anthropology classes (can include Biological)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Stat 651</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>ANTH 685 (1 hour – begin thesis proposal development)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>MANA 901 (gross anatomy if required)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>3 x ANTH 685 (prelim prep/prep for ANTH 638)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>ANTH 638 (proposal development – spring semester)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>2 x ANTH 691 classes (dissertation research)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>54</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>54</strong></td>
<td><strong>54</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>6 x ANTH 691 (max 18 hours dissertation research)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td><strong>72</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>6 x ANTH 691 (max 18 hours dissertation research)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td><strong>90</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>90</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The grand total of hours of coursework is 90. Students may opt to register for fewer ANTH 691 hours in their 4th and 5th years. Students are required to take a minimum of 64 hours. In consultation with the advisor, students may take additional courses beyond the Track requirements.
Graduate Courses Available to Students in Biological Anthropology

*Graduate Courses taught by Biological Anthropology faculty:*

ANTH 601 – Biological Anthropology
ANTH 625 – Zooarchaeology
ANTH 626 – Human Paleopathology
ANTH 627 – Human Paleonutrition
ANTH 631 – Primate Behavioral Ecology
ANTH 632 – Archaeology of Death
ANTH 638 – Proposal Writing in Anthropology
ANTH 643 – Australopithecine Paleoecology
ANTH 644 – The Genus *Homo*
ANTH 689 – Prosimians
ANTH 689 – The Great Apes
ANTH 689 – Issues in Human Evolutionary Theory

*Recommended graduate courses taught by non-Biological Anthropology Faculty (this list is not exhaustive, but reflects research interests allied to Biological Anthropology faculty):*

ANTH 602 – Archaeological Methods and Theory
ANTH 604 – Cultural Method and Theory
ANTH 605 – Conservation of Archaeological Resources I
ANTH 624 – Geoarchaeology
ANTH 630 – Human Evolutionary Ecology
ANTH 634 – Palynology
ANTH 636 – Computer Graphics in Archaeology
ANTH 637 – Paleoethnobotany
ANTH 640 – Ethics and Professionalism
ANTH 642 – Research Design in Anthropology
ANTH 652 – First American Archaeology

*Recommended graduate courses taught by non-Anthropology faculty in other departments (this list is not exhaustive, but reflects research interests allied to Biological Anthropology faculty):*

ANSC 610 – Applied Animal Ethology
ARCH 646 – Historic Preservation Theory and Practice
ENTO 601 – Principles of Systematic Entomology
FRSC 601 – Forest Ecosystems and Global Change
GENE 606 – Quantitative Phylogenetics
GENE 612 – Population Genetics
GEOL 622 – Stratigraphy
GEOL 648 – Stable Isotope Geology
GEOL 650 – Paleoecology
MANA 642 – Osteoporosis and Bone Biology
MANA 901 – Gross Anatomy
STAT 651 – Statistics in Research I
WFSC 609 – Wildlife Research Methods
Student Progress and Schedule Milestones

Students entering without the MA

Year 1
1. Student takes 18 hours of graduate courses (9 hours/semester or 3 courses/semester).
2. No later than the end of the Spring semester of Year 1 the student will select a Faculty Advisor and committee comprising two additional Anthropology faculty members and one external faculty member (external can be selected by the beginning of the Fall semester of the 2nd year).
3. If the student is considering the non-thesis MA option, they will provide the advisor and committee with a degree plan by no later than the end of the Fall semester of Year 1.
4. The advisor and committee will conduct a review of the students academic progress in the middle of the Spring semester of Year 1.
5. The advisor will discuss the potential content of the major paper with the student by the end of the Spring semester of Year 1; student to begin preliminary work on major paper over the summer.

Year 2
1. Student takes 18 hours of graduate courses (9 hours/semester or 3 courses/semester).
2. By the beginning of the Fall semester the external committee member must be identified.
3. If the student has selected the non-thesis MA option, the official degree plan must be filed by the beginning of the Fall semester.
4. Student takes 3 hours of ANTH 685 per semester with advisor, during which time the student conducts research for the major paper.
5. At the end of the Spring semester students opting for the non-thesis MA degree de-register from PhD program and register for the MA. This option requires writing a major paper intended to demonstrate competence in the scientific method, and a knowledge of the literature relevant to the chosen field of enquiry.
6. After the degree is approved, students advance to PhD program; this does not require a formal re-application process, but requires approval of Biological Anthropology faculty.

Year 3
1. After readmission to PhD program, student takes 18 hours of graduate courses (9 hours/semester or 3 courses/semester).
2. Students required to take MANA 901 gross anatomy should take it in the Fall semester of the 3rd year if at all possible.
3. New PhD degree plan must be submitted to advisor and committee before the end of the Fall semester; any alterations to committee composition to be completed by the end of the Fall semester.
4. Student begins thesis proposal development.
5. Foreign language requirement must be fulfilled at this point (does not count toward degree hours).
6. The advisor and committee will conduct a review of the students academic progress in the middle of the Spring semester of Year 3.
Year 4
1. Student begins prelim preparations in Fall semester, which includes preparation for ANTH 638 Proposal Development class.
2. Student to take prelims, either late Fall or early Spring semester.
3. Student takes ANTH 638 during Spring semester with the goal of producing a grant application for submission to NSF or similar body.
4. Student begins dissertation research.
5. The advisor and committee will conduct a review of the students academic progress in the middle of the Spring semester of Year 4.

Year 5
1. Submission of dissertation improvement grant applications to major funding agencies (e.g. submit Spring Semester for result in Fall Semester).
2. Student undertakes dissertation research.
3. The advisor and committee will conduct a review of the students academic progress in the middle of the Spring semester of Year 5.

Year 6
1. Dissertation research and write-up.
2. Student defends dissertation.
3. Graduation
Additional years may be required in consultation with advisory committee.

Students entering with the MA

Year 1
1. Student takes 18 hours of graduate courses (9 hours/semester or 3 courses/semester).
2. No later than the end of the Spring semester of Year 1 the student will select a Faculty Advisor and committee comprising two additional Anthropology faculty members and one external faculty member (external can be selected by the beginning of the Fall semester of the 2nd year).
3. No later than the end of the Spring semester, the student will provide their Advisor and Committee with a provisional Degree Plan.
4. The advisor and committee will conduct a review of the students academic progress in the middle of the Spring semester of Year 1.

Year 2
1. Student takes 18 hours of graduate courses (9 hours/semester or 3 courses/semester).
2. Students required to take MANA 901 gross anatomy should take it in the Fall semester of the 2nd year if at all possible.
3. By the end of the Fall semester the external committee member must be identified.
4. Student begins thesis proposal development.
5. The advisor and committee will conduct a review of the students academic progress in the middle of the Spring semester of Year 2.
Year 3
1. Student begins prelim preparations in Fall semester, which includes preparation for ANTH 638 Proposal Development class.
2. Student to take prelims, either late Fall or early Spring semester.
3. Student takes ANTH 638 during Spring semester with the goal of producing a grant application for submission to NSF or similar body.
4. Student begins dissertation research.
5. Foreign language requirement must be fulfilled at this point (does not count toward degree hours).
6. The advisor and committee will conduct a review of the students academic progress in the middle of the Spring semester of Year 3.

Year 4
1. Submission of dissertation improvement grant applications to major funding agencies (e.g. submit Spring Semester for result in Fall Semester).
2. Student undertakes dissertation research.
3. The advisor and committee will conduct a review of the students academic progress at the end of the Spring semester of Year 4.

Year 5
1. Student completes dissertation research and write-up.
2. Student defends dissertation.
3. Graduation

Curriculum Policies

Admissions Policy
The Biological Anthropology Program does not regularly admit MA students, instead placing a strong emphasis on students applying for the PhD. Students may enter the PhD program with either the BA or the MA; students entering with the BA can opt to receive a non-thesis MA on the way to the PhD. The research interests of the student must overlap with one of the research themes of the Biological Anthropology Program. In the admissions essay, the student must state their interests and the faculty members with whom they would like to work. The admissions essay is a critically important factor in Faculty selection of students. Therefore students are encouraged to produce a thoughtful, well-reasoned essay that highlights their research interests and how they correspond to those of Faculty members. A specific research topic is not required, though some level of focus beyond a general interest in Biological Anthropology is necessary. A majority vote of the Biological Anthropology Program faculty is needed to admit a student into the Program.

Policy Regarding Core Classes
1. Biological Anthropology Program students must take ANTH 601. There are no exceptions to this policy.

2. Waivers for ANTH 601 may be granted for Cultural Anthropology, Archaeology or Nautical Archaeology Program students on a case-by-case basis. Students requesting a waiver
are to provide: a) evidence that a similar course was taken at another institution, b) a syllabus of this course is to be provided, and c) the grade earned in the class must be either an A or B. If a waiver is granted, the student must take an alternative Biological Anthropology course.

3. Biological Anthropology Program students may request a waiver of ANTH 602 (Archaeology) and ANTH 604 (Cultural Anthropology) from those respective programs. Students must abide by the decisions and policies of the Cultural Anthropology and Archaeology Programs.

General Curriculum Policies
1) ANTH 489 Courses should only be taught with the specific intention of creating a new permanent course.

2) ANTH 689 Courses should be taught with the specific intention of creating a new permanent course or as a special topics seminar taught on a one-time basis with no expectation of turning the course into a permanent course.

3) Each semester we will offer ANTH 225 and at least one upper division class.

4) On occasion we will accept students who do not have an anthropological background. Students without an anthropological background must demonstrate proficiency in an allied field (e.g. Biology) to the satisfaction of the Biological Anthropology Program Faculty. Deficiencies in background might necessitate additional remedial coursework beyond those covered in the Track requirements.

5) Each year, the advisor and committee will evaluate their students and determine if they are making “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory” progress towards graduation. If a student receives two “unsatisfactory” reviews, they will be dismissed from the program. These reviews will be placed in the student’s official file. A copy of this review will be provided to the student.

Annual Student Review Process

Every Spring semester, graduate students are required to submit a progress report and vita to their advisor for review. These documents are due before April 1st of each year. Students are encouraged to have their progress reports prepared well in advance of deadline to ensure that Faculty have sufficient time to review indicators of progress. The student’s progress is evaluated based on these reports. The evaluation is done by the student’s advisor and supervisory committee at the discretion of the advisor.

In cases where the advisor and committee deem that the student’s progress is “Unsatisfactory,” the letter will specify what the student must do (including a time line) to improve their status. Failure to follow what is specified in the letter will result in dismissal from the program. A student who received an unsatisfactory evaluation two years in a row is dismissed from the program.
Defining the Major Paper

Students opting to receive a non-thesis MA must write a research paper that is problem oriented, reviews relevant literature, and discusses the implication of the results. This paper is to demonstrate the student’s ability to formulate a problem, systematically analyze and interpret data, argue scientifically, and show literary competence. The student must be the sole author on the paper. This paper must be completed at least 4 weeks prior to the last day of classes in the fourth semester. The student’s committee will evaluate the paper no later than one week prior to the last day of classes in the student’s fourth semester. It is recommended that this paper be a minimum of 25 pages of text (double-spaced, 12-point font) excluding supporting materials such as the bibliography, illustrations, tables, and graphs. Papers should be modeled on submission to one of the 5 journals targeted by the Biological Anthropology Faculty (American Journal of Physical Anthropology, Journal of Human Evolution, Evolutionary Anthropology, International Journal of Primatology, Journal of Archaeological Science).

Dissertation Proposal

The student prepares a preliminary dissertation proposal. This proposal will specify the intended topic of the dissertation, theoretical framework, geographic area of field work, and methods of research. The proposal will be submitted to the committee for review and approval. The proposal should take the form of an NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant. Students will be encouraged to apply for support of their dissertation.

Preliminary Examination

An examination will be held to assess the student’s knowledge and to orally defend their dissertation proposal. This exam has both a written and oral component. The exam will be presided over by the student’s advisor. The advisor and committee members will provide the written questions and oral questioning.

Dissertation

A student writes a dissertation, which must be approved by the supervisory committee. The format of the dissertation will be a volume with syntheses, original data, and interpretations presented in multiple chapters. The dissertation should be prepared as a book or monograph, with an eye toward publication of individual component(s) in peer-reviewed journals.

Teaching Experience

Students are strongly encouraged to develop skills and experience teaching at the college/university level.

Fieldwork Experience

Since biological anthropology is strongly field-based, students are encouraged to participate in active fieldwork projects, both in biological anthropology and archaeology.
Courses Taught by Biological Anthropology Program Faculty

**Athreya:**
ANTH 201  Introduction to Anthropology
ANTH 225  Biological Anthropology
ANTH 312  Fossil Evidence for Human Evolution
ANTH 427  Human Variation
ANTH 601  Biological Anthropology
ANTH 644  The Genus *Homo*
ANTH 689  Issues in Human Evolutionary Theory

**de Ruiter:**
ANTH 201  Introduction to Anthropology
ANTH 225  Biological Anthropology
ANTH 312  Fossil Evidence for Human Evolution
ANTH 489  Science, Pseudoscience and Critical Thinking in Anthropology
ANTH 601  Biological Anthropology
ANTH 625  Zooarchaeology
ANTH 643  Australopithecine Paleoecology

**Gursky:**
ANTH 201  Introduction to Anthropology
ANTH 225  Biological Anthropology
ANTH 312  Fossil Evidence for Human Evolution
ANTH 405  Introduction to the Primates
ANTH 601  Biological Anthropology
ANTH 689  Prosimians
ANTH 689  Great Apes

**Wright:**
ANTH 201  Introduction to Anthropology
ANTH 225  Biological Anthropology
ANTH 308  Archaeology of Mesoamerica
ANTH 312  Fossil Evidence for Human Evolution
ANTH 423  Bioarchaeology
ANTH 425  Anthropometry and Osteology
ANTH 426  Anthropology of Food and Nutrition
ANTH 601  Biological Anthropology
ANTH 626  Human Paleopathology
ANTH 627  Human Paleonutrition
ANTH 632  Archaeology of Death
ANTH 638  Research Design in Anthropology
Courses Taught by Archaeology Program Faculty (categorized by course number)

**Undergraduate**

ANTH 201  Introduction to Anthropology  
ANTH 225  Biological Anthropology  
ANTH 308  Archaeology of Mesoamerica  
ANTH 312  Fossil Evidence for Human Evolution  
ANTH 405  Introduction to the Primates  
ANTH 423  Bioarchaeology  
ANTH 425  Anthropometry and Osteology  
ANTH 426  Anthropology of Food and Nutrition  
ANTH 427  Human Variation  
ANTH 489  Science, Pseudoscience and Critical Thinking in Anthropology

**Graduate**

ANTH 601  Biological Anthropology  
ANTH 625  Zooarchaeology  
ANTH 626  Human Paleopathology  
ANTH 627  Human Paleonutrition  
ANTH 632  Archaeology of Death  
ANTH 638  Research Design in Anthropology  
ANTH 643  Australopithecine Paleoecology  
ANTH 644  The Genus Homo  
ANTH 689  Prosimians  
ANTH 689  Great Apes  
ANTH 689  Issues in Human Evolutionary Theory
Courses Taught by Archaeology Program Faculty (Categorized by Frequency of Teaching)

Courses offered twice a year:
ANTH 201  Introduction to Anthropology
ANTH 225  Biological Anthropology

Courses offered once a year:
ANTH 312  Fossil Evidence for Human Evolution
ANTH 427  Human Variation
ANTH 601  Biological Anthropology (Fall)

Courses offered once every two years:
ANTH 405  Introduction to the Primates
ANTH 425  Anthropometry and Osteology
ANTH 489  Science, Pseudoscience and Critical Thinking in Anthropology
ANTH 626  Human Paleopathology
ANTH 638  Research Design in Anthropology

Courses offered once every three years:
ANTH 308  Archaeology of Mesoamerica
ANTH 423  Bioarchaeology
ANTH 426  Anthropology of Food and Nutrition
ANTH 625  Zooarchaeology
ANTH 627  Human Paleonutrition
ANTH 632  Archaeology of Death
ANTH 643  Australopithecine Paleoecology
ANTH 644  The Genus Homo
ANTH 689  Prosimians
ANTH 689  Great Apes
ANTH 689  Issues in Human Evolutionary Theory