

Master's Degree in Anthropology

The Master of Arts program in Anthropology prepares students to enter the profession as trained anthropologists, and is recommended only for those who wish to seriously pursue a career specialization in Anthropology. It requires a higher level of achievement, and places greater emphasis upon independent study and research than does the BA. It emphasizes broad training in three fields of anthropology (archeology, biological anthropology and human evolution, and cultural anthropology) while offering students some flexibility in degree planning and requirements. Department evaluation and approval is required for admission to either classified or unclassified graduate standing.

The General Anthropology track offers two alternatives. The terminal MA degree emphasizes a generalist approach, prepares students to teach anthropology at the community college level, and culminates in a series of comprehensive examinations in each of the three fields covered by the department. A more specialized degree option prepares students to enter a Ph.D. program; this path culminates in a thesis under the direction of the faculty. The latter option is designed for students who plan to enter a Ph.D. program in anthropology, but may not have the background or foundational knowledge to enter such a program directly. All students in the General Anthropology track are required to take seminars in each of four areas of anthropology: socio-cultural anthropology, archeology, physical anthropology, and anthropological theory. In addition, students take elective courses to fit with their area of specialization.

The option in Public Archeology prepares students to become cultural resource managers. Public Archeology students are required to take five seminars plus a range of elective courses with an archeological focus, and to complete a research project under the supervision of the Director of the Center for Public Archeology.

The Department offers computer facilities; a media support facility, and a physical anthropology/ archeology lab. The members of the Anthropology faculty represent a wide range of interests and approaches to the discipline. Information on individual faculty members, their backgrounds and interests is available from the department office ([818] 677-3331) or on the department website, <http://www.csun.edu/anthropology>. Prospective graduate applicants are strongly encouraged to consult the website or the department to compare their interests with those of existing faculty.

Admission Requirements

There are two separate application processes, one involving the University and the other the Anthropology Department. Students must submit **both** the University and Departmental Applications.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR MASTER'S DEGREE IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Acceptance into the Master's Degree Program in Anthropology at California State University, Northridge is a two-part process. An applicant must first be admitted to the university as a graduate student and then be accepted by a department.

Admission to the University

In order to be admitted to CSUN, a student must meet the following requirements:

1. Have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited university or college.
2. Have been in good standing at the last institution attended.
3. Have at least a 2.5 grade point average in the last 60 semester/90 quarter units attempted, independent of when the baccalaureate was granted. The entire semester or quarter in which the 60/90 units began will be used in this calculation. Lower division courses or courses taken in extension (except in concurrent enrollment at CSUN in the upper division), after obtaining the bachelor's degree, will be excluded from calculation.

Students wishing to be admitted to the University must follow the instructions supplied by the Office of Admissions and Records for application to the University. Once applications are received, they will be evaluated by the office of Admissions and Records to verify that University standards for admission are met. The student will NOT be admitted to the University until a department accepts them.

The Anthropology Department admits students in two categories: Classified or Conditionally Classified.

Admission to the Anthropology Department

After receiving a completed application, the office of Admissions and Records will forward an applicant's information to the Anthropology Department. A graduate committee will determine whether or not a student meets the additional requirements needed for admittance into the Anthropology Department's graduate program.

The Anthropology Department requires additional materials above and beyond what the University requires for applicant review. These standards for applicant review, additionally, reflect standards that are higher than that for base admission criteria for the University.

1. GPA of at least 3.0 in all undergraduate and graduate Anthropology courses.
2. Graduate Record Exam is required if student has less than a 3.0 GPA. A score in the upper 50 percentile in at least one of the three portions of the aptitude test is required for admission.
3. Two letters of recommendation, from faculty members who know the applicant's potential for graduate school.
4. Transcripts from all undergraduate institutions the applicant has attended
5. A written Statement of Purpose indicating career objectives, and how CSUN's MA program is particularly suited to fulfilling those objectives.

Submit all material to the Anthropology Department by the department's deadline.

Admission Requirements for Classified Status

Students admitted with Classified status may take courses in the MA program at the 500 level or higher. The Department of Anthropology requires:

1. Completion of University requirements for admission to graduate standing.
2. Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Anthropology or completion of "minimum equivalency."

Minimum Equivalency

- A. Completion of all lower division requirements in Anthropology required of the major at CSUN. No course substitutions will be accepted for students applying from our BA program to our MA program.
- B. The following courses are required for admission with classified status:
 - Math 140, or an equivalent course in introductory Statistics
 - Successful completion of the Upper Division Writing Proficiency Exam
 - Anthropology 151 and 152, or their approved equivalents
 - Anthropology 319 or its approved equivalent
 - Anthropology 303 or 375 or 404, or an approved equivalent

Students applying for the Public Archeology track must have completed all of the above, plus the following classes:

- Anthropology 306 or 307 or 427, or an approved equivalent

Unclassified Status

If you do not have all the classes required for classified status, you may be admitted as “Unclassified.” You will need to complete the requirements for classification within your first 12 units of study at CSUN, after which you will apply for classified status and you may begin to take classes at the 500 level and higher.