

The University of Kansas
Department of Anthropology
Graduate Program Student Handbook

Fall 2026

**This handbook is intended to be an electronic document;
it contains embedded links to websites and electronic
documents. Information is incomplete in hard copy form.**

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1. About the Graduate Program

The Graduate Program in Anthropology at the University of Kansas provides formal training in three areas of anthropology. While students are expected to meet the requirements of at least one of the subdisciplines (archaeology, biological anthropology, sociocultural anthropology), interdisciplinary and interdepartmental work is encouraged. Students often work with faculty having diverse areas of expertise.

Faculty members have expertise in the following areas:

ARCHAEOLOGY: Anthropological approaches to paleoenvironmental studies, geoarchaeology, symbol systems, lithic and ceramic studies of prehistoric societies of the Americas and Europe.

BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY: Anthropological genetics, human evolution and population history, migration, bioarchaeology, populations in the Americas, Eurasia, Europe.

SOCIOCULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY: (Post)colonial studies, indigenous studies, migration, human rights, political anthropology, medical anthropology, applied anthropology, Latin America, North Africa, Central Asia, Middle East, and Europe.

This program is designed to enable students to complete a Ph.D. in five years. Most students who are admitted into the program are expected to be entering with the intention of completing a Ph.D., and will be admitted directly into the Ph.D. program. Some students entering the program without an M.A. are expected to complete one as they progress to the Ph.D., depending on their field.

Recognizing that some fields have career paths that begin at the M.A. level, the program also offers an M.A.-only option.

Thus, the graduate program has three tracks for incoming graduate students: (1) M.A. only (with or without a thesis), (2) Ph.D. only, or (3) M.A. + Ph.D., where an M.A. is received *en route* to the Ph.D.

2. Admission to the Graduate Program

2.1 General Information for all Applicants. The graduate program admits students for the pursuit of Master's (M.A.) and Doctoral (Ph.D.) degrees in anthropology. We expect students to complete the M.A. in two years and the Ph.D. in five years. In order to offer full funding for at least four years to all students, the program has high expectations and admission is highly competitive.

Preparation for the program through completion of an undergraduate Bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) and Master's (M.S. or M.A.) in anthropology is expected but not required. Coursework in fields that intersect with anthropology is strongly recommended. Undergraduate and graduate courses in such subjects as biology, philosophy, genetics, statistics, computer science, and

history, as well as proficiency in a foreign language are of considerable value to the graduate student in anthropology.

The Department of Anthropology prefers a cumulative GPA of 3.20 or higher to qualify for admission. Please see **Section 10: University Policies and Degree Requirements** for University level admission requirements.

Applications for fall admission are due on December 1 of the preceding year. Review of applications begins in mid-December. The Department of Anthropology does not offer regular admission for spring semesters.

In addition to the [online application form](#), the following materials are required of all applicants:

- A writing sample.
- Identification of two KU faculty members who could serve as the applicant's primary and secondary graduate advisors. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to the faculty members prior to applying in order to establish interest and determine whether they would be a good fit with the advisors' research expertise. Two faculty members must agree to serve as mentors for each admitted student: one primary, one in a secondary capacity on the student's committee. In the eventuality that the student's primary advisor cannot continue in that role, the secondary advisor commits to serving as the primary advisor. Applicants do not need to submit written confirmation from these faculty as part of their application; they will be identified during the selection and admissions process.
- A research statement describing research interests and professional goals that clearly indicates the disciplinary track of interest (i.e., archaeology, biological anthropology, or sociocultural anthropology), and identifies which faculty members the applicant would like to work with.
- A resume or curriculum vitae (CV).
- Official transcripts of undergraduate and graduate study completed.
- Three letters of recommendation from faculty members or others with whom the applicant has worked and who know their work well.
- Applicants who wish to be considered for departmental financial support (GTA positions, fellowships, etc.) should clearly state this in their cover letter or personal statement.

GRE scores are not required for admission into the program.

2.2 Provisional Admission. If the admissions committee determines that there are any deficiencies in the training of an incoming graduate student, the applicant may be admitted in provisional status, or required to complete additional coursework in order to remove such deficiencies. This will be specified in the departmental admission letter. Students admitted in provisional status are not eligible for funding as a graduate teaching assistant or graduate research assistant during the provisional period (usually one semester).

2.3 Non-native Speakers of English must also demonstrate English proficiency to qualify for admission. The university has additional score requirements for *employment* as a graduate teaching assistant (GTA). Please see **Section 10: University Policies and Degree Requirements** for University English proficiency requirements.

2.4. Advising. New students will be assigned a primary faculty advisor and a secondary advisor at the time of admission. Every graduate student is required to have a graduate advisor from the time of admission until completion of degree requirements. Students may change advisors at any time provided they can identify another regular member of the department's graduate faculty willing to accept the position. It is the student's responsibility identify the new advisor, to notify the DGS at once and in writing of such changes, and to notify the previous advisor of the change. When a change of advisor is necessary for reasons beyond the student's control (e.g., a faculty member leaving KU, retiring, or when the advising relationship is no longer productive), the secondary advisor is expected to step into the role on a temporary basis, unless alternative arrangements are made with the DGS and/or department chair to serve as the temporary advisor. The Anthropology Graduate Committee will give the student a defined period of time to identify the new advisor of up to six months. The DGS will assist with and monitor this process, but it will be entirely the responsibility of the student to initiate contacts and identify a faculty member willing to be their primary advisor.

Any faculty member has the right to refuse to continue as a student's advisor or to serve on any student's committee. If a student is unable to identify an Anthropology faculty member willing to serve as their advisor within six months, or sufficient faculty members in Anthropology to make up a committee, this may be grounds for dismissal.

Every student is also required, after the second semester of enrollment, to have either a M.A. or a Ph.D. committee. The student also may change any other committee member with the consent of the committee chair and Director of Graduate Studies.

Students must meet regularly—at least once a year—with their committees. Failure to meet regularly with their committees will result in students being placed on probation during the next evaluation period. Students are responsible for scheduling and organizing the advisory meeting at least two weeks prior to their annual evaluation.

Regular and Timely Feedback. The Department of Anthropology is committed to providing regular and timely feedback to ensure graduate students are aware of the assessment of their academic work and their academic standing in the MA or PhD program.

- Coursework: Feedback on and grades for course assignments are provided according to the schedule included in the syllabus. Final grades are entered by the University's grade submission deadline each semester.
- Academic progress: Faculty review all graduate students during the spring semester, and students are provided with feedback generated by this review via email at the end of the spring semester. Students and faculty are encouraged to meet and discuss the review, as well as students' progress in general.
- Dissertation work: Faculty advisors provide feedback on chapters within two to three weeks unless specified in students' Mentoring Agreement.
- GTA performance: First-time GTAs are evaluated once per semester, and returning GTAs are evaluated at least once per academic year.

2.5. Enrollment. The department requires all students to enroll continuously, full-time, in fall and spring semesters, unless on an approved Leave of Absence (LOA; see Section 10). Doctoral candidates must adhere to the University's Post-Comprehensive Enrollment Policy.

3. The Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree in Anthropology

3.1. Overview. This degree is offered to students admitted to the program without an M.A. in hand. It is available to students who are seeking the M.A. only and also to those pursuing a doctoral (Ph.D.) degree.

3.2. Master's committee. By the end of the first year, and preferably sooner, a student should have chosen a Master's committee, which must comply with [KU Graduate Studies' Master's Student Oral Exam Committee Composition policy](#). The advisor serves as chair of the committee. See **Section 10. University Policy and Degree Requirements** for further information on committee composition requirements. Students must secure the agreement of each person to serve on the committee and notify the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) and Graduate Coordinator (GC) in writing of the composition of the committee and any proposed changes or additions to the committee. Final approval of the committee is granted by the DGS. The identification of the advisor and the committee must always be clearly documented.

3.3. Time Limits for the Degree. Under normal circumstances, the Department expects students to complete the M.A. degree after four to six semesters of enrollment, representing a total of thirty hours of coursework beyond the B.A. Students should plan to complete all coursework within four semesters. Students in good academic standing (3.0 minimum GPA in all KU courses) who need a third year may, with the support of their M.A. committee, petition the Graduate Committee for a one-year extension. All students are expected to be continuously enrolled until all requirements for the degree have been completed. However, the Graduate Committee may be petitioned for exceptions. See Section 10: University Policy and Degree Requirements for further information on time to degree limits and Leaves of Absence.

3.4. Master's Final Exam. Successful completion of the M.A. program requires examination by a committee of at least three members of the Graduate Faculty. In accordance with Graduate Studies policy, a student must be in good academic standing (3.0 or higher grade-point average) at the time of scheduling the Master's Final Exam and Doctoral Qualifying Exam. No more than six independent research or thesis hours (ANTH 896, 897, 898, or 899) may be counted towards the thirty required for the degree. The M.A. degree will be awarded upon the successful completion of a Master's Final Exam. The Anthropology program offers several options for this exam. Students will select, in consultation with and subject to the approval of their Master's committee, one of three options (A, B, or C, below) depending on their degree trajectory and career goals.

- Thesis Defense. Students must complete at least one and no more than six credit hours of Master's Thesis (ANTH 899). The M.A. thesis proposal should be developed in consultation with the student's principal advisor. It must be formally approved by the student's Master's committee no later than the third semester of enrollment. A completed thesis should be submitted and defended no later than the sixth semester of enrollment. Conditional on approval by the student's M.A. committee, students must schedule and successfully complete a thesis defense open to the University community and pass an oral defense of the thesis. The oral defense will consist of a presentation of research, open to the public, followed by a period of examination by the committee in closed session. This option is particularly recommended for students that do not intend to complete a Ph.D.

■ Research Paper Option. Students must complete at least one and no more than six independent research hours of Graduate Research (ANTH 896), Internship Research (ANTH 897), or Internship Analysis (ANTH 898). Students may produce or be the primary contributor (e.g. first author) to an appropriate paper publishable by a peer-reviewed journal. The M.A. project proposal must be developed in consultation with the student's principal advisor. It must be formally approved by the student's Master's committee no later than the third semester of enrollment. Co-authorship is permitted if the student has primary responsibility for: 1) conceiving the project; 2) collecting new data or analyzing previously collected data; and 3) completing the finished project. Conditional on approval by the M.A. committee, students must schedule and successfully complete a defense open to the University community, followed by a period of examination by the committee in closed session.

■ Other Research Project Option. Students must complete at least one and no more than six independent research hours of Graduate Research (ANTH 896), Internship Research (ANTH 897), or Internship Analysis (ANTH 898). A project proposal should be developed in consultation with the student's principal advisor. A completed project such as an edited book or monograph, or other scholarly product, such as an online resource, documentary film, or museum exhibition, should be submitted and defended no later than the sixth semester of enrollment. Conditional on approval by the M.A. committee, students must schedule and successfully complete a defense open to the University community. The oral defense will consist of a presentation of the project, open to the public, followed by a period of examination by the committee in closed session.

The thesis or other defense must be held during the semester of the student's final enrollment in coursework for the M.A. degree. Once the student's M.A. committee agrees that the thesis or research project has been substantially completed and the student is ready to defend, the student must contact the department's Director of Graduate Studies to schedule the defense *at least three weeks in advance* of the anticipated defense date. All defense options may result in a grade of Satisfactory, Honors, or Unsatisfactory. In cases of an unsatisfactory grade, the student may repeat the exam only with the approval of the Anthropology Graduate Committee. In no cases may an exam be taken three times.

3.5. Ph.D. Students and the M.A. Degree. Students of the Ph.D. program have the opportunity to earn an M.A. degree *en route* to the Ph.D., near the end of their fourth semester in the program. This action is designed primarily for students in areas of the field where a M.A. degree is professionally beneficial (e.g., cultural resource management; community-college teaching). Students in the Ph.D. program also have the opportunity to move to the M.A. program, complete its requirements, and exit with the M.A. in lieu of the Ph.D. Doctoral students interested in earning an M.A. degree should express this interest to their graduate advisor and committee by the end of their first year in the program, so that they can complete their M.A. project in time to defend it as part of their Ph.D. qualifying exam, at the end of their second year. Although it is expected that the Ph.D. student will complete option B above (the Research Paper Option) so as to maintain good progress toward the Ph.D. degree, the student can elect (in consultation with their advisor and committee) to complete either option A (Thesis Defense) or C (Other Research Project).

3.6. M.A. Students and Continuation in the Ph.D. Program. Master's students wishing to continue in the Doctoral program must also undergo a Qualifying Exam. The Qualifying Exam can be taken at the same time as their Master's Final Exam or on a separate occasion. If taken separately, the MA Exam and Qualifying Exam must be completed within the same semester. The Qualifying Exam is a holistic evaluation of the student's suitability for the Ph.D. program, taking into account the student's overall capacity and preparation for graduate study leading to the Ph.D., the student's intellectual ability, self-application, creativity, portfolio of work, and prior performance in coursework, as well as the Master's Final Exam (if taken prior to the Qualifying Exam). Following deliberation of the student's qualifications, the Master's committee will notify the student and the Director of Graduate Studies of their recommendation regarding the student's advancement to Ph.D. level study. The Department Faculty then votes on admission into the Ph.D. program.

In addition to these departmental requirements for the Master's degree, students must meet the University's graduation requirements, see **Section 10: University Policies and Degree Requirements**.

4. The Ph.D. Degree

Students are informed at the time of admission whether they are accepted directly into the Ph.D. program or if they must first complete an M.A. in Anthropology. Students who have completed prior degrees in fields other than anthropology may have additional requirements, including coursework and exams, that are determined at the time of their admission or by their advisor in consultation with their committee. These requirements will be documented in writing at the time of admission.

4.1. Advising. New Ph.D. students will be assigned a primary faculty advisor and a secondary advisor at the time of admission. By the end of the first year (or upon successful completion of the Qualifying Exam, if advancing from the M.A. program), Ph.D. students must establish their **Doctoral Committee**. The faculty advisor serves as chair of the committee, which must comply with [KU Graduate Studies' Doctoral Student Oral Exam Committee Composition policy](#). See **Section 10. University Policies and Degree Requirements** for University policy on committee composition. Students must secure the agreement of each faculty member to serve on the committee and notify the Director of Graduate Studies and Graduate Coordinator in writing of the composition of the committee and any proposed changes or additions to the committee. Final approval of the committee is granted by the DGS. See **Section 2.4** for the rules regarding changing advisors and committee members. Failure to have identified a doctoral committee at the end of the first year will result in academic probation.

4.2. Coursework Requirements. In addition to the coursework requirements described in **Section 5**, Ph.D. students are required to complete at least 18 graduate credit hours of post-Qualifying-Exam/post-M.A. coursework. Of these 18 hours, no more than 9 may be in independent study (ANTH 896, 897, or 898). Dissertation hours *may not* be counted toward this requirement. Ph.D. students must complete the University's Engagement and Enrollment in Doctoral Programs requirement, as described in **Section 10, University Policies and Degree Requirements**.

4.3. The Qualifying Examination. Ph.D. students complete their Qualifying Examination at or near the end of their fourth semester in the program. The Qualifying Exam will be a holistic evaluation of the student's suitability for the Ph.D. program, taking into account the student's overall capacity and preparation for graduate study leading to the Ph.D. degree. As such, it considers the student's intellectual ability, self-application, creativity, portfolio of work, and prior performance in coursework. At least three weeks prior to the Qualifying Exam, the student will present their portfolio of written work to their Doctoral Committee for review. This can include papers from graduate seminars or tutorials, conference presentations, publications, and other examples of the student's work that are relevant to their graduate training thus far. At the Qualifying Examination, the student will present this dossier, expressing their preparedness to continue in the Ph.D. program. Committee members will then ask questions regarding the written portfolio and oral presentation. Following deliberation of the student's qualifications and performance in the exam, the Doctoral Committee will notify the student, Director of Graduate Studies, and Graduate Coordinator of the result of the exam.

4.4. The Comprehensive Oral Examination and Advancement to Candidacy. All Ph.D. students must pass a Comprehensive Oral Examination no later than the end of their fifth semester in the program. This exam will be based in part upon a dissertation proposal, which must be approved by the Doctoral Committee *at least three weeks* before the Comprehensive Oral Examination is scheduled. Students are therefore advised to begin work on the dissertation proposal by their second year in the program and to submit it to the Doctoral Committee with sufficient time for approval.

The dissertation proposal is an essential part of doctoral research. The student's Doctoral Committee determines its exact form, and this may vary by subdiscipline. In the proposal, the student is expected to review the state of knowledge pertinent to the topic, describe the research problem, and explain the methods to be employed in the investigation. To ensure timely progress toward completion of the dissertation and doctoral degree, students must have a dissertation proposal approved by their Doctoral Committee and pass the Comprehensive Oral Examination within five semesters of beginning doctoral work.

The approved dissertation proposal is the central focus of the Comprehensive Oral Examination. The Doctoral Committee judges whether the student is sufficiently prepared to undertake the dissertation project and to work as an independent investigator. Training and qualifications to make a contribution to anthropological knowledge are also considered.

Once the student and Doctoral Committee agree that the student and dissertation proposal are ready for defense, students must consult the Graduate Coordinator about scheduling the exam *at least three weeks* in advance of the anticipated defense date. The exam is administered by the Dissertation Committee and is closed to the public. It may result in a grade of Satisfactory, Honors, or Unsatisfactory. In the case of an unsatisfactory grade, a student may repeat the exam a second time only with the approval of the student's Doctoral Committee and the Graduate Committee. A third try is not permitted. See **Section 5.4** for further information.

At the comprehensive exam, the student's committee will assess the student's progress in achieving each of the department's established learning outcomes. If a student fails to achieve at

least a “Developing (D)” level of each learning outcome, the committee will provide the student the opportunity to do supplemental work to meet the requirement. This supplemental work may take the form of a short (~3 page) paper on the relevant topic, or something comparable. The work must be completed within 30 days and approved by the committee within 10 days after submission. Only in cases of excessively poor performance (e.g., failure to achieve an appropriate level in at least 3 of the 5 learning outcomes), or failure to complete the supplemental work by the deadline, will the student be required to retake the entire exam.

Upon passing the comprehensive oral examination and dissertation proposal defense, the student is advanced to doctoral candidacy. Following the successful completion of the exam and proposal defense, students must adhere to the University’s Policy on Post-Comprehensive Enrollment. See **Section 10. University Policies and Degree Requirements** for further details.

4.5. Format of the Dissertation. At the dissertation proposal stage, the student and committee will agree upon one of two options for the dissertation.

Option 1: The dissertation must consist of at least two publishable papers based on original research and suitable for publication in subdisciplinary journals, a literature review or synthesis, an introduction, and a concluding chapter. Specific sub-disciplinary requirements are described in **Sections 6-8**.

Papers may have multiple authors; however, for it to be included as a chapter the student must be the primary (first) author and have contributed the majority of research and have written the first draft, as approved by the committee. Papers do not need to be published before the dissertation defense, but they must be submission-ready.

Option 2: The dissertation may be a traditional monograph. The student and committee will discuss the length and format of the monograph during annual committee meetings.

4.6. The Dissertation. The dissertation is an independent piece of research, usually requiring laboratory analysis and/or fieldwork, and leading to a final product that will contribute to anthropological knowledge. It is undertaken based on the approved dissertation proposal in consultation with the student’s advisor and Doctoral Committee and is usually completed through the submission of multiple drafts. The completed, defensible dissertation must be submitted to the committee *at least two weeks* before the scheduled defense date. Students should always plan for adequate time to be given for review of drafts by the advisor and the Doctoral Committee.

Because dissertation research in anthropology is often dependent on external funds for travel, subsistence, data gathering and analysis, doctoral students should consult with their committee early on where and when to apply for such funds. Students are strongly encouraged to seek formal training in grant writing, for example through a graduate special-topics course offered by the department.

4.7. Final Oral Examination. After obtaining approval from all members of their committee, the student may schedule their Final Oral Examination. The student must consult the Graduate Coordinator at least three weeks in advance of a proposed date to schedule the Final Oral

Examination, in which the candidate defends the dissertation and its contribution to anthropological knowledge. The Final Oral Examination is composed of two parts: (1) a dissertation defense, open to other faculty, students, and the public, consisting of a presentation of the student's research and a question and answer session; (2) an oral exam, open only to the Doctoral Committee with the student's advisor serving as chair.

At the time of the defense, the Doctoral Committee may approve the dissertation "as is" or it may indicate specific changes that are necessary before a final draft is accepted. A student must comply with all expectations in the time period allotted in order for the requirements for the degree to be considered complete. This includes meeting all University requirements, including submission of the final dissertation draft in a correct, complete, specified format.

Upon satisfactory completion of the Final Oral Examination, completion of any modifications to the dissertation required by the Doctoral Committee, and review of all University requirements, the candidate will be certified by the Doctoral Committee as qualified to be awarded the Ph.D. degree. See **Section 10** (University Policies and Degree Requirements) for further details.

5. Coursework Requirements

5.1. Overview. Coursework requirements are the same for all students, regardless of degree. All students are expected to complete 30 credit hours of graduate level (500+) coursework prior to completion of the Master's Final Exam/Doctoral Qualifying Exam, typically by the end of their fourth semester of study. At least 50% of credit hours must be at the 700 level or above. University policy specifies that graduate level coursework completed as an undergraduate degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student may **not** be counted for credit toward a graduate degree at KU, although they may be taken into consideration when planning a student's exact course of study.

No more than 6 hours of independent research or thesis credits may count toward the 30-hour total. See **Section 10** (University Policy and Degree Requirements) for further information.

The graduate program curriculum has been designed to give students: (a) rigorous training in professional skills needed to be successful in academic or non-academic careers, (b) a thorough grounding in four-field anthropological history and theory, and (c) maximum flexibility in advanced study in theory, methods, and synthesis within the student's area of specialization.

5.2. Core Topics. Students must demonstrate competency in a set of topics, including:

1. History/theory in the three subfields of Anthropology (archaeology, biological anthropology, and sociocultural anthropology);
2. Professionalism;
3. Knowledge in the area of specialization;
4. Research methods;
5. Stewardship/engaged research.

To gain competency in Core Topic 1 (History/theory) and Core Topic 2 (Professionalism), all students must at least satisfactorily complete the two proseminar courses, ANTH 801 and 802. These will consist of in-depth discussions of published material relevant to the history and theory of each anthropological subfield. Readings will be selected by each of the subdisciplines, and faculty are encouraged to attend the seminars and contribute to discussions. The proseminars will also further students' professional skills (i.e., reading academic literature, designing research projects, writing proposals, research ethics). In these ways, they thereby fulfill Core Topics 1 and 2.

Demonstrating competency in Core Topics 3 and 4 may be demonstrated through two pathways. First, students may complete relevant courses (with a grade of "B" or better). For example, students in socio-cultural anthropology will satisfy these requirements through the completion of ANTH 704 (Current Cultural Anthropology) and ANTH 783 (Doing Ethnography). Archaeology students will satisfy these requirements by completing ANTH 853 (Theory and Current Problems in Archaeology) and other methods courses (e.g., in geoarchaeology, environmental archaeology, or artifact analysis). Biological anthropology students may satisfy the methods requirement by taking ANTH 642 (Computational Genetic Anthropology) and the area requirement by taking other graduate courses in population genetics, etc.

The second pathway for demonstrating competency in Core Topics 3 or 4 is through the satisfactory completion of a graduate-level tutorial with their advisor in which the student writes a bibliographic essay relating to the specific theory and/or method through which dissertation research is being developed, or the regional or topical context in which the research is expected to be conducted (e.g., through ANTH 896, Graduate Research). Similarly, a bioanthropology student taking a Geoarchaeology class may elect to fulfill Core Topic 3 by writing a paper on DNA preservation in soils at mid-latitudes. In the latter case, students must obtain written consent from their Advisor and the instructor of the course, prior to enrolling, to ensure that the paper will fit within the content and requirements of the course. Papers written to fulfill competency requirements will become part of the portfolio presented for the PhD Qualifying Exam.

Demonstrating competency in Area 5, finally, will be best fulfilled through completing ANTH 707 (Responsible Research and Scholarship in Anthropology).

5.3. Additional Requirements by Subfield. In addition to the Core Topics, each subdiscipline has specific expectations for graduate students. These expectations are discussed in **Sections 6-8**.

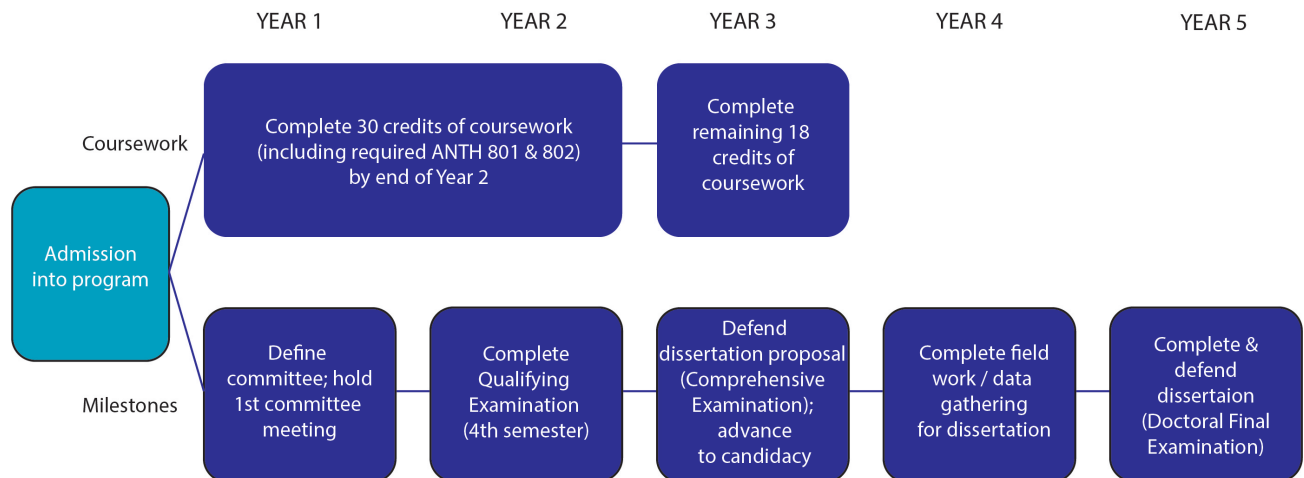
5.4. Research Skills & Responsible Scholarship (RSRS). The University requires that every graduate student have training in responsible scholarship pertinent to the field of research and obtain research skills pertinent to the doctoral level of research in their field(s). This requirement is satisfied by completion of ANTH 707 (Responsible Research and Scholarship in Anthropology).

5.5. Timelines

M.A., Ph.D., and M.A./Ph.D. Timelines

Year	Semester	M.A.	Ph.D.	M.A. enroute to Ph.D.
1	1	30 hours coursework including Proseminar 801 and 802, completion of competencies through courses and papers		
	2			
2	3		Qualifying Exam for Ph.D.	M.A. Final Exam & qualifying exam for Ph.D.
	4			
3	5	Submit and defend MA thesis no later than this semester	Dissertation proposal and defense (Comprehensive Exam)	Dissertation proposal and defense (Comprehensive Exam)
	6			
4	7		18 post-comprehensive credit hours; submit and defend dissertation	18 post-comprehensive credit hours; submit and defend dissertation
	8			
5	9			
	10			
6	11			
	12			

Ideal Flow through PhD program in Anthropology



6. Graduate Training in Archaeology

6.1. Introduction. Graduate study in anthropological archaeology is designed to train professional archaeologists for both academic and nonacademic careers. While university teaching remains a career choice of many graduate students, our students also undertake careers with cultural resource management (CRM) firms, museums, and federal agencies such as the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Forest Service that recruit personnel at the M.A. and Ph.D. levels. The curriculum is designed to provide students with advanced knowledge of archaeological approaches to the study of material culture as well as sufficient training in archaeological field research, data analysis, and other relevant analytical methods for a career in archaeology.

Beyond the core seminars (ANTH 801 and ANTH 802), graduate students in archaeology are expected to demonstrate expertise in the substantive content, methodological framework, and theoretical orientations of both topical (e.g., lithic technology, geoarchaeology, ceramic technology, faunal analysis) and geographical areas (e.g., Great Plains of North America, Mesoamerica, Arctic, northeast Asia, etc.). This expertise is demonstrated through successful completion of coursework (including the required ANTH 853, Theory and Current Problems in Archaeology), relevant field and lab training, and other milestones (for M.A. students, the M.A. Final Examination [i.e., thesis or research paper defense]; for Ph.D. students, the Qualifying Examination, Comprehensive Examination [i.e., dissertation proposal], and doctoral dissertation. In addition, M.A. and Ph.D. students in archaeology are expected to complete at least two of the following courses, selected in consultation with the student's advisory committee: ANTH 510 (Environmental Archaeology), ANTH 517 (Geoarchaeology), ANTH 519 (Lithic Technology), ANTH 520 (Archaeological Ceramics), and ANTH 521 (Zooarchaeology). Another methods-based course can be substituted in consultation with the advisory committee.

6.2. Fieldwork and Laboratory Research. All graduate students in archaeology must display proficiency in conducting archaeological fieldwork as demonstrated by active and successful participation in the equivalent of at least one four-week field season such as an accredited archaeological field school or an approved field research project. Experience in working directly with archaeological materials is also expected of all students. Regular participation in archaeological field and laboratory research, in addition to specific work leading to the completion of a dissertation, is an integral part of the doctoral program. Specific details will be determined by the student in consultation with the doctoral advisor and Ph.D. committee.

6.3. Proposal Writing. To succeed in archaeology, students need to develop excellent proposal writing skills. Each student is therefore required to write a dissertation proposal and strongly encouraged to submit it to an external funding agency upon advancement to candidacy. All eligible students are strongly encouraged to apply to the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program during their first year of graduate school. Students are encouraged to further hone their grant-writing skills through independent study with faculty via graduate research/readings (ANTH 896/996) or a similar course or workshop in proposal writing periodically offered in the department. Students deficient in writing skills will be required to undergo additional training through the Writing Center or other workshops as recommended by their committees.

6.4. Research Skills. Students develop critical research skills through formal coursework and tutorials as well as informal apprenticeship-style training outside of classes during their first two years of study. Students may expect to participate in small research projects prior to beginning their dissertation research to gain experience; they can expect co-authorship on any papers emerging from projects to which they provide substantive contributions. All archaeology Ph.D. students are expected to regularly present research to their colleagues within the department and are encouraged to make presentations regularly at national and international research conferences, especially after achieving candidacy.

6.5. Dissertation Proposal. For doctoral students in archaeology, it is recommended (but not mandatory) that the dissertation proposal be in the form of an NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant or Wenner Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Proposal. If another format is chosen,

it must be developed by the student and their advisory committee prior to the formal Comprehensive Examination.

6.6. Format of the Dissertation. Dissertations in archaeology will consist of a clearly articulated research question developed in accordance with the student's advisory committee. The format should minimally include two publishable papers, an introduction, and a discussion/concluding chapter. To qualify, the papers must make a significant and original contribution to the field and advance our understanding of archaeological knowledge from a historical, theoretical, methodological, or scientific perspective. In broad terms, they should further our understanding of specific chrono-cultural developments, social processes and ancient human adaptations, or explore past paleoenvironmental changes as they relate to humans. The papers must be suitable for publication in journals of international and national reach such as (but not limited to) *American Antiquity* or *Journal of Archaeological Science*, or scientific journals with a regional or topical focus such as (but not limited to) *Plains Anthropologist* or *PaleoAmerica*. Papers may have multiple authors; however, for them to be included as chapters, the Ph.D. candidate must be the primary (first) author, have contributed the majority of research, and ultimately have written the final product.

7. Graduate Training in Biological Anthropology

7.1. Introduction. Graduate training in biological anthropology at the University of Kansas is designed to provide in-depth knowledge and research skills in human evolution and anthropological genetics. Although students may apply for only the M.A. degree, the primary focus of the faculty is toward the training of highly qualified students for the Ph.D. degree. This concentration stresses research from the very beginning of the program, and is therefore quite rigorous.

Additional requirements for graduate students in biological anthropology, beyond those described in Section 4 of this handbook, are specified below.

7.2. Coursework. All students are required to complete at least one methods course, of which ANTH 642 (Computational Genetic Anthropology) is the most suitable option. Other methods courses must be selected in consultation with the student's advisory committee. Because biological anthropology, and in particular anthropological genetics, draws upon the methods and theory of multiple disciplines, it is generally expected that students take a number of courses offered outside the department early in their training, particularly in the Division of Biological Sciences. Such courses generally include biometry and population genetics if students do not already have a background in these topics. Students develop their course of study in consultation with their advisory committee.

As their research progresses, students may also take courses related to their specific research interests both within and outside the department, such as in geology, linguistics, archaeology, sociocultural anthropology, and Indigenous Studies. Students will choose their course of study in consultation with their advisory committee.

7.3. Proposal Writing. To succeed in biological anthropology, students need to develop excellent proposal writing skills. Each student is therefore required to write a research proposal and strongly encouraged to submit it to an external funding agency prior to advancement to candidacy (see Section 7.7). All eligible students are strongly encouraged to apply for external funding during their first two years of graduate school. Students are encouraged to further hone their proposal writing skills through independent study with faculty via graduate research/readings (ANTH 896/996) or a similar course or workshop in grant writing periodically offered in the department. Students deficient in writing skills will be required to undergo additional training through the Writing Center or other workshops as recommended by their committees.

7.4. Developing Research Skills. Students develop critical research skills through formal coursework and informal apprenticeship-style training outside of classes during their first two years of study. Students may expect to participate in small research projects prior to beginning their dissertation research in order to gain experience; they can expect co-authorship on any papers emerging from projects to which they provide substantive contributions. Under the direction of the laboratory manager and other senior personnel, students who use the laboratory facilities are expected to assist in the maintenance and improvement of all shared facilities and resources, including the modern DNA laboratory, the ancient DNA laboratory, and all samples and reagents.

7.5. Meetings and advising. All graduate students in biological anthropology are expected to meet regularly with their advisor to discuss progress in their research. Students can expect additional regular meetings with senior personnel on specific projects, and with the entire laboratory group. Because regular advising is crucial to making progress in genetics research, biological anthropology graduate students are encouraged to meet with their full advisory committees at least annually. Failure to meet regularly with their advisors and attend laboratory meetings over the course of a semester will result in students being placed on probation during the next evaluation period.

7.6. Presenting research. All biological anthropology Ph.D. students are expected to regularly present research to their colleagues within the department, and encouraged to make presentations regularly at national and international research conferences after achieving candidacy.

7.7. Format of the Dissertation Proposal. For doctoral students in biological anthropology, the dissertation proposal shall be in the form of an NSF Biological Anthropology Senior Research Proposal. This must conform to all NSF specifications and be submitted to the advisor and dissertation committee in completed form. This proposal will form the basis for the oral examination. A proposal to a different grant agency may be substituted, pending written approval of the student's committee and advisor. Students are expected to modify or draw upon this proposal in writing any external grant applications following achievement of candidacy. Proposed dissertation chapters and timeline of research should also be provided to the Doctoral Committee and described in sufficient detail that the Committee can assess their scientific merit and feasibility.

7.8. Format of the Dissertation. Dissertations in biological anthropology will consist of at least three publishable papers, an introduction, and a concluding chapter. One of the three papers may be a literature review in the student's field of study, suitable for publication in a journal like *Yearbook of Biological Anthropology*. The other two papers must be suitable for publication in journals such as *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*, *American Journal of Human Genetics*, or *PLoS One*. Papers may have multiple authors; however, to be included as dissertation chapters the student must be the primary (first) author and have contributed the majority of research and writing of the work. Papers do not need to be published before the dissertation defense, but they must be submission-ready.

8. Graduate Training in Sociocultural Anthropology

8.1. Introduction. Graduate training in sociocultural anthropology at the University of Kansas is designed to provide in-depth knowledge and research skills in critical theory, and engaged and collaborative ethnographic research. Students may pursue an M.A. for the non-academic and community college teaching job market or a Ph.D. for the academic and non-academic market.

8.2. Theory and Current Perspectives. Sociocultural graduate students must know the historical foundations and current sociocultural theory to be competent scholars. Historical foundations are covered in required Proseminars I (801) & II (802). Training in current theory is met through completion of ANTH 704 (Current Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropological Theory: 1968-Present). To make progress toward degree, students may request to substitute another current theory-based course or a guided readings course. Such requests must be approved by the student's graduate supervisory committee.

8.3. Knowledge in Area of Research. Sociocultural anthropology students specialize in particular theoretical topics and the historical, social, and cultural background(s) of the countries or regions where they will conduct research. Students must either take courses that build topical and area specializations or complete literature reviews (e.g., through ANTH 896) for each topic under the supervision of their doctoral committee members. Literature reviews should follow the model of articles in *The Annual Review of Anthropology* (<https://www-annualreviews-org.www2.lib.ku.edu/journal/anthro>). The courses and/or literature reviews are intended to be of direct use to students' dissertations and serve as a foundation for future research and publications.

8.4. Methodological Training. Ethnography is the hall mark of sociocultural anthropological research and the method used by the sociocultural anthropologists in the department. Sociocultural students complete ANTH 783 (Doing Ethnography) or an equivalent ethnographic training course in another department approved by the student's graduate supervisory committee. Students are encouraged acquire skills in qualitative and quantitative methods for methodological fluency.

8.5. Language Training. Graduate students in sociocultural anthropology must demonstrate either **(a)** a working spoken knowledge of a second language if it is necessary for their research, or **(b)** reading competency in a second language in which documents and publications relevant to their research specialization have been written. This may be achieved by taking courses up to an

intermediate competency (equivalent to four semesters), through training abroad, or through another mechanism as directed and approved by their advisor and committee.

8.6. Multidisciplinary Coursework. Ethnography is like detective-work. Ethnographers are adaptable and able to recognize and follow leads from different areas of knowledge while conducting research, analyzing field notes, and writing authoritative prose. Therefore, sociocultural students are encouraged to take courses outside the department, such as in Area Studies, History, Geography, Indigenous Studies, Communications, English, Sociology, Environmental Studies, or others anticipated to be relevant to their dissertation and careers.

8.7. Proposal Writing. Proposal writing is a fundamental competency in sociocultural anthropology, as it is in every discipline. Students prepare by building a dissertation proposal with guidance from their doctoral committees and may take credits in ANTH 896 (Graduate Research) or complete the department's periodically offered course or workshops in proposal writing. The dissertation proposal and one's graduate competency as a whole must be orally defended in the Comprehensive Examination. If one passes, one moves on to doctoral candidacy. The dissertation proposal is a template for actual external grant applications, such as to the Wenner Gren Foundation, the US Department of Education's Fulbright-Hays award, and the Social Science Research Council.

8.8. Meetings and Advising. Sociocultural anthropology students must meet with their advisor/committee chair at least once per semester, either in person or digitally.

8.9. Presentations and Publications. To make professional contacts, hone skills, and build a resume for a competitive job market, sociocultural students should strive to present their research at professional conferences and publish in professional journals as soon as they have sufficient data. If students have no data, they should ask their professors if they could do bibliographic work or data analysis with the professor's data and co-present or co-publish with them. Common venues for sociocultural graduate presentations are the Central States Anthropological Society, American Anthropological Association, Society for Applied Anthropology, and areas studies association meetings.

8.10. Stewardship/Engaged Research. Sociocultural anthropology students are expected to actively contribute to the discipline and society at large. They must complete one of the following or another task approved by the committee to graduate with a Ph.D.:

Write a letter/editorial (reviewed by advisor) to politicians, newsfeeds, journals, magazines, newspapers;

Hold a leadership position in the Graduate Students for Anthropology club (GSA);

Hold a leadership position in a national or regional anthropology organization;

Conduct service-learning in a course as student or GTA;

Produce a short well-supported video for YouTube or other venue;

Undertake 30+ hours of internship;

Design a website with well substantiated data.

8.11. Format of the Dissertation. Reflecting how sociocultural anthropologists are evaluated in the academic world, dissertations in sociocultural anthropology are normally book-length

ethnographic monographs; however, the three-paper format is also permitted in special situations. Students can discuss possibilities within this framework with their doctoral committees.

9. Anthropology Graduate Program Administration

9.1. Administration. The graduate program is administered by the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) and the Anthropology Graduate Committee according to policies and procedures established by the faculty. The Graduate Committee is composed of the Director of Graduate Studies (chair), a graduate student, and faculty members representing the subdisciplines. The chair of the department is an *ex officio* member.

9.2. Financial Support of Students. All students admitted to the Ph.D. program are guaranteed full funding for four years if they maintain good standing. Up to two years of funding *may be* available for admitted M.A.-only students. One of the primary ways the department supports graduate students is through graduate teaching assistantships (GTAs). GTAs are allotted to graduate students on a competitive basis. These positions provide the student with a stipend and tuition waiver. GTA openings for the next academic year (i.e., the Fall and Spring semesters) are normally announced in the Spring semester. Students are responsible for watching for the announcement of these positions. The Graduate Committee assigns students to GTA positions. To allow as many students as possible to obtain teaching experience, the University limits the number of terms as a GTA allowed to any one student. See **Section 10. University Policy and Degree Requirements** for further information.

Some faculty members support students from grants and contracts as graduate research assistants (GRAs). Advertising and hiring for GRA positions are the responsibility of individual faculty members. Students should contact specific faculty members if they are interested in GRA positions. There are no limits on the total amount of support or number of terms allowed for GRA positions.

The department also offers several awards and scholarships to graduate students in the department. Announcements of upcoming funding opportunities are distributed to graduate students in advance of deadlines.

9.3. Student Responsibilities. All graduate students are responsible for familiarizing themselves of the contents of this handbook and pertinent sections of the online [Academic Catalog](#) relating to the Office of Graduate Studies, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Department of Anthropology, and the relevant subdiscipline(s). Students may at any time seek clarification of policies and procedures from the DGS and/or Graduate Coordinator. Students are expected to keep in close contact with their advisors, committees, and other members of the department such as the Chair, DGS, Graduate Coordinator, and Office Manager. This entails reading and responding to emails in a timely fashion and meeting regularly with advisors regarding ongoing research and progress to degree.

9.4. Annual Review. Students are required to work closely with their primary advisor and committee to plan a directed course of graduate study. It is strongly recommended that they meet

all members of their committee each semester. They are required to meet with their full committees at least once a year.

The academic progress of all graduate students will be reviewed each Spring semester. Additional evaluations may take place as warranted. All faculty participate in the annual review. Students must submit an updated CV and a statement of academic progress over the previous year in advance of the annual review. Grades, achieving milestones, progress on the thesis or dissertation, overall academic performance, and GTA/GRA performance will be evaluated. Students will be notified of the review in advance. The outcome of the evaluation will be communicated by the DGS in writing to the student, along with whatever recommendations the review committee chooses to make. A copy of the evaluation and recommendations will be retained in the student's file.

9.5. Intellectual Property Policy. All students are subject to the Board of Regents and KU Intellectual Property Policies. The policy is available in its entirety on the [Office of the Provost's website](#) for further details. Faculty do not have the authority to copy or distribute student works such as field statements, theses, dissertations, or course papers to other students or persons, excepting department faculty and other relevant or participating faculty, without written permission of the creator(s) of the work.

9.6. Maintaining Good Standing. To be considered in "good standing" in the graduate program, the Department of Anthropology requires graduate students to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.20, and to make timely progress toward meeting their degree requirements and milestones. For additional information on good standing, as well as probation and dismissal procedures for those students that do not meet the requirements for good standing, see **Section 10** (University Policy and Degree Requirements).

A graduate student may be placed on probation based on the recommendation of the student's advisory committee and/or the Graduate Committee. Common reasons for probation include but are not restricted to:

- Failure to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 in Anthropology coursework.
- Failure to establish an advisory committee by the end of the first year of graduate study.
- Failure to complete the Qualifying Examination within 2 years after entering the program for Ph.D.-track students or the Final Examination within 3 years for stand-alone M.A.-track students.
- Receiving multiple, or consecutive, Incomplete (I) grades.
- Failure to submit materials for the annual review.
- Failure to set up a meeting and meet with their committee at least once a year.
- Consensus by the advisory committee that the student is not making satisfactory progress toward a degree.

Students recommended for academic probation will receive *written notice* from the Department of Anthropology and University outlining specific requirements and timelines (typically one semester) that must be met to return to good standing.

Failure to meet the terms of the probation constitutes sufficient grounds for dismissal from the graduate program. Placement on probation for a second time (consecutive or not) may also constitute sufficient grounds for dismissal.

9.7. Grievances. Any student in the department who has a grievance pertaining to graduate studies should follow the procedures outlined in the [Departmental Bylaws](#).

9.8. Exceptions. Exceptions to specific departmental rules may be granted for sufficient reason by the Graduate Committee. Students must petition to waive the rules and requirements stated in this manual, and the petition must be endorsed by student's faculty advisor and, where relevant, the approval of the members of the student's advisory committee. Petitions may be forwarded to the University for final review and approval as necessary.

10. University Policies and Degree Requirements

This section contains information on requirements and policies of the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs, hereafter referred to as “the University”. It is not a complete list of all policies pertaining to graduate students. Only those policies that *most commonly* affect graduate students are included.

Policies are described in general terms and are intended to help students understand what is expected. They do not reflect the exact language of the official policy and should not be confused with official policy. Specific information and restrictions as well as links to relevant forms may be accessed by clicking on the policy headings. Links to the official policies in the KU policy library are found at the bottom of each policy description. Students are accountable to and should familiarize themselves with the University's official policies.

GENERAL POLICIES

The following University policies apply to ALL graduate students regardless of degree, program, or department. These are minimum general requirements. Your department or program may have more restrictive policies in any of these areas.

Admission

Degree or non-degree seeking applicants must have a bachelor's degree (as evidenced by an official transcript from the institution the degree was obtained).

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Admission to Graduate Study](#)

English Proficiency Requirements

The University requires all applicants, international or domestic, to demonstrate English proficiency for admission to any graduate program at KU. There are three ways to prove English proficiency:

- Declaration of native or native-like speaker status on the online application for graduate study.
- Official scores from an English proficiency standardized test (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS-Academic, or PTE), sent by the testing agency to the University of Kansas. Official scores must be less than two years old. Scores must be reported to KU directly by the testing service. Self-reported scores or unofficial scores are not accepted. TOEFL scores should be sent by ETS to KU institution code 6871. IELTS should be sent to KU Graduate Admissions via the e-delivery service. PTE score sheets containing the Score Report Code and Registration ID should be emailed to graduateadm@ku.edu for verification.
- Graduation with a baccalaureate degree (or higher) earned in residence from an accredited English-medium college or university or an accredited college or university in the United States. Degrees earned online may not be used to verify English proficiency. Note: this option is not sufficient for employment as a Graduate Teaching Assistant.
- AEC Curriculum: Students who haven't taken one of the listed tests may complete coursework through the KU [Applied English Center](#) (AEC) to demonstrate English proficiency.
- US Military Employment: If you are employed as an officer in the U.S. military with documentation of selection or promotion to the rank of Major or higher (or the equivalent

U.S. Navy or Coast Guard rank), then you will be considered fully proficient and will not be required to complete AEC testing.

Additional English Competency Requirements for GTAs:

English proficiency requirements for GTAs are governed by the Kansas Board of Regents and must be met separately from the English proficiency requirement for admission to a KU graduate program. Detailed information on English proficiency requirements for GTAs may be found on Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs' [Spoken English Competency page](#).

Related Policies and Forms:

- [English Proficiency Requirements for Admission to Graduate Study](#)
- [Spoken English Language Competency of Faculty and Graduate Teaching Assistants, Kansas Board of Regents Policy](#)

Enrollment

For graduate students, advising on enrollment and course selection take place at the department level. While units within the College may have additional enrollment requirements, for students who are required to enroll full time (e.g. students holding a GTA/GRA/GA appointment, international students on an F-1 or J-1 visa, students receiving federal financial aid, etc.) the University defines full time enrollment is as follows:

Fall and Spring semesters:

- Enrollment in 9 credit hours;
- Enrollment in 6 credit hours plus a GTA, GRA, or GA appointment, regardless of percentage of appointment;
- Enrollment in 6 credit hours for graduate students using the Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty (MGIB-AD) and Post-9/11 GI Bill – Active Duty;
- Doctoral candidates enrolled in dissertation hour(s). *See Doctoral post-comprehensive enrollment.

Summer sessions:

- Enrollment in 6 credit hours;
- Enrollment in 3 credit hours plus a GTA, GRA, or GA appointment, regardless of percentage of appointment;
- Enrollment in 3 credit hours for graduate students using the Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty (MGIB-AD) and Post-9/11 GI Bill – Active Duty;
- Doctoral candidates enrolled in dissertation hour(s).

Graduate students are not normally permitted to enroll for more than 16 hours a semester or more than 8 hours in summer session.

While these are KU's definitions of full-time enrollment, other institutions may have different definitions. Be sure to consult with your financial aid and/or health insurance providers before making enrollment decisions.

Students not enrolled by 11:59pm the day before the first day of classes will be assessed a late enrollment fee. The University Registrar then deactivates the KU ID of any not enrolled by the last Friday in October (for Fall) or last Friday in March (for Spring). Students who wish to enroll after that must pay a fee to be reactivated.

Students who wish to leave their graduate program should inform the department of such plans in writing so that a Voluntary Withdrawal form may be submitted on their behalf. Please note that voluntarily withdrawing from your program does **not** automatically withdraw you from coursework. You must also withdraw from all classes in Enroll & Pay via the “Withdraw from the University” option.

Deadlines for adding, changing, dropping, or withdrawing from all courses, as well any fines associated with the change, are set by the University. **Deadlines vary from year to year. Students should carefully review the current [Academic Calendar](#).**

You may also wish to consult the Registrar's page on [Effects of Dropping or Withdrawing on your Transcript](#).

Your graduate program coordinator is available to guide you through any enrollment scenarios or questions that come up. In order to avoid problems on your record, please consult with them prior to dropping or changing enrollment.

Related Policies:

- [Discontinued Enrollment](#)
- [Enrollment](#)
- [Full-time Enrollment for Graduate Students](#)
- [Graduate Coursework Expiration Dates](#)
- [Master's Degree Requirements](#)

Graduate Credit (Including Transfer Credit)

The University's Graduate Credit [policy](#) defines KU's conditions for the following:

- Definition of graduate credit for the purposes of a course “counting” towards a graduate degree or graduate certificate at KU;
- Transfer of graduate credit to KU from an outside institution;
- Reduction in the required number of graduate hours for master's students;
- Counting credit hours taken as non-degree seeking student towards a later graduate degree at KU;
- Counting credit hours taken as a certificate seeking student toward another graduate degree.

Transfer Credit

The transfer credit option allows master's students to add graduate-level coursework completed at another institution to their KU transcript to count toward their KU degree. Upper level coursework taken as an undergraduate, even courses numbered at the graduate level, is not eligible for transfer in any case. Additional restrictions apply to what non-KU graduate courses and the number of credit hours that can be counted toward a KU master's degree, so students should carefully review the information provided in the link above and the related policies below, as well as consulting with their

DGS. In all cases, transfer credit must first be approved at the department or program level. To begin the transfer process, students should consult with their DGS to submit the required transfer materials. These include a transcript reflecting the courses to be transferred and descriptions and/or syllabi for the courses in question.

No transfer of credits is allowed for the PhD. In circumstances where students enter the PhD program with an MA from another institution or other relevant graduate coursework, it may be possible for students to request a reduction in the number of hours required for the PhD students should consult with their DGS about their enrollment plan.

Reduced Credit Hour Degree

KU policy defines 30 hours as the minimum for master's degrees. Departments may petition for a reduced hour degree master's degree for individual students in cases where they may provide evidence that the student entered the program especially well-prepared to complete a graduate-level degree and the student is able to maintain a superior grade point average. Reduced credit hour degrees must be based on coursework or experiences that can be objectively measured, such as coursework or qualifying internship or study abroad programs. Professional or life experience does not qualify. A reduction in hours is distinct from a transfer of credit and is reserved for students whose prior coursework doesn't qualify for transfer credit (e.g. was already used to fulfill requirements towards a completed degree) and there are no modifications on the transcript. Restrictions apply to the number of credit hours that can be reduced for a master's degree, so students should carefully review the information provided in the link above and the related policies below.

In all cases, a reduction in hours must first be approved at the department or program level, so to begin the process for approval, students should consult with their DGS. Students must also provide documentation of the coursework or experience being used to justify the reduced hours (e.g. transcripts, program descriptions).

Because there is no minimum number of required hours for the PhD, reduction of required hours based on prior degrees or experience is determined solely at the program level. Doctoral students should consult with their DGS about their enrollment plan.

Related Policies:

- [Graduate Credit](#)
- [Co-enrollment](#)
- [Master's Degree Requirements](#) (on Reduced Hour Master's Degree)

Credit/No Credit

The University supports and encourages interdisciplinary study, which may include graduate students enrolling in coursework at the graduate level that is outside of their primary discipline. The Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) is an option for graduate students who are taking a course that is not required for their degree or certificate and who do not wish to have the course grade reflected in their cumulative graduate GPA. Rather than a grade appearing on the transcript, the student receives a designation of CR or NC, which does not factor in the GPA.

No course graded CR/NC will count toward the satisfaction of any graduate degree or certificate requirement. This includes, but is not limited to, courses taken to fulfill the Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship requirement for doctoral students.

Students make the CR/NC election via the Registrar's CR/NC [online request](#) form. Elections and changes to elections can only be made during the specific CR/NC period. For regular semester courses, this period begins after the last day to add a class and extends for approximately two weeks. Exact dates may be found on the current KU [Academic Calendar](#). Please keep in mind, short courses may have [alternate dates](#).

The student should consult with their own program advisor about the appropriateness of the course prior to enrolling; however, in cases where CR/NC is elected, the course instructor is not informed of the election unless the student chooses to share this information.

Additional restrictions apply. Students should carefully review the information in the link above.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [University Senate Rules and Regulations \(USRR\), Section 2.3.8](#)

Probation & Dismissal

Probation is an academic status that can be assigned to a graduate student that is not making [satisfactory progress](#) toward completing their degree. The department initiates the probation process and will inform the student of why they are not making satisfactory progress, what they must do to return to good standing, and the deadline for doing so.

Students are most commonly placed on probation due to their graduate cumulative [GPA dropping below a B average \(3.0 on a 4.0 scale\)](#). In these cases, probation occurs automatically and is reflected on the student's record for the semester following the semester in which the student's GPA drops below 3.0. If the student's cumulative GPA is raised to 3.0 by the end of the probationary semester, the student will be automatically returned to good academic standing.

Additionally, the College has set a 2.5 minimum GPA for students to be eligible for a semester of academic probation. In cases where a student's GPA drops below the minimum of 2.5, the student is considered ineligible for academic probation and will be dismissed by the College. Students are strongly advised to review the [College-specific policy on probation and dismissal](#) for more information about the 2.5 threshold for dismissal.

Students may also be placed on probation by their departments for other reasons that constituting a failure to make satisfactory progress towards degree. These may include, but are not limited to;

- Lack of progress on the thesis, dissertation, or capstone project
- Unacceptable academic performance on program milestones outside of coursework (e.g. exams),
- Unsatisfactory grades or GPA within foundational required courses (despite the overall cumulative GPA)
- An unsatisfactory result in their department's annual progress evaluation

- Nearing or going beyond their maximum time to degree. See the Time Limits section below for more information.

Students should carefully review the [Good Academic Standing policy](#) for graduate students at KU for more information on what constitutes making satisfactory academic progress.

Individual programs may also have additional measures of progress. Students should also consult the Annual Review section of their department graduate handbook or the degree requirements section and with their program advisor for more information.

If a student is unable to raise their cumulative GPA or otherwise meet the communicated terms of the academic probation, the department will reconsider their continuation in the program, in most cases will recommend the student for dismissal. Once dismissed, a student is no longer able to be enrolled in coursework and cannot complete their degree. Students dismissed from any graduate program may not be admitted to any other graduate program at the University of Kansas.

A student on probation or facing dismissal should discuss their status with their advisor.

Related Policies:

- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Dismissed Enrollment](#)
- [Probation and Dismissal \(CLAS\)](#)
- [Good Academic Standing policy](#)

Grading

Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs' [Grading policy](#) governs requirements for the grading of graduate students above those described in [Article II](#) of the University Senate Rules and Regulations. Additionally, individual schools, departments, or programs may have grading policies that are more stringent than those of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs.

Students should carefully review the [College-specific grading information](#), in particular the section on the SP/LP/NP grading scale for thesis & dissertation hours and the impacts of receiving a LP (limited progress) or NP (no progress). Students should also consult their adviser and the departmental grading section of this handbook for additional information that may affect them. Students should also consult their faculty advisor and the departmental grading section of this handbook for additional information about department-specific grading policies.

At minimum, for all graduate students at KU, at least a B average is required on course work counted toward any of the master's degrees at KU, and only courses graded A, B, or C (excluding C-) may be counted. Course work counted toward a doctorate, including that for a master's degree if obtained at KU, should average better than a B.

Related Policies:

- [University Senate Rules & Regulations](#)
- [Grading](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Dismissed Enrollment](#)
- [Probation and Dismissal \(CLAS\)](#)

Time limits

Typically, the University expects the master's degree to be completed in two (2) years of full-time study, the doctorate degree in five (5) years of study, and both the master's and doctorate together in six to seven (6-7) years of study.

Students who anticipate exceeding these targets should review the information in the link above and in the policies below, as well as consult with their program advisor to create a timeline for degree completion. In order to support this process, students are encouraged to use a Mentoring Agreement Template and/or adapt to their own needs to support effective mentoring and a positive mentoring relationship.

Note that the College's Mentoring Agreement is required for doctoral students who are within 2 years of exhausting their maximum time to degree. See the [College Graduate Regulations](#) or talk to your graduate program coordinator for more information.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Master's Degree Program Time Constraints](#)
- [Engagement and Enrollment in Doctoral Programs](#)
- [Doctoral Degree Comprehensive Oral Exams](#) (on exam expiration and recertification)
- [Doctoral Program Profiles with Time To Degree Information](#)
- [KU CLAS Mentorship Agreement Template](#)
- [Univ. Michigan Rackham Graduate School Mentoring Plan Templates](#)
- [KU Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs IDP template](#)

Leave of Absence

In exceptional circumstances (e.g. cases of illness, emergency, financial hardship, military leave, to pursue family responsibilities, or to pursue full-time activities related to long-range professional goals) it may be necessary for graduate students to take a break from their program temporarily, without having to withdraw entirely from the program. An approved leave of absence allows a student to take a temporary break from enrolling in graduate coursework while remaining in good standing with the University and the department and while "stopping the clock" on their time to degree. When a student is on a Leave of Absence, it is understood that they have temporarily suspended their graduate work and therefore will not make use of University resources, including faculty time.

Requesting a Leave of Absence is done through a University petition. University petitions must first be approved and supported at the program level, so students wishing to initiate the petition process should first consult with their Director of Graduate Studies and review their department's internal petition procedures. Units or the Director of Graduate Study may request documentation to support the student's need for a leave of absence.

For a Leave of Absence to gain approval, the student must be withdrawn from all active and/or future enrollment. Withdrawal for the purposes of Leave of Absence is still subject to all Registrar deadlines, required forms, and applicable tuition and fees.

Students on a Leave of Absence are automatically reactivated after their leave is over and are eligible to enroll for their intended semester back during the normal enrollment periods. See the [KU Academic Calendar](#) for exact dates that enrollment begins.

If a student's plans change and they wish to return and enroll before the leave was set to end, they may contact their department to request an early reactivation.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Leaves of Absence](#)
- [GPA Leave of Absence Request Form \(linked at bottom of webpage\)](#)

Required University Milestones

All graduate students must complete one or more exams as part of their degree requirements. In addition to department or program guidelines, the following milestones are required for all students and specific regulations apply:

- Master's Final Culminating Exam (written or oral)/Thesis Defense for Master's degree*
- Doctoral Comprehensive Oral Exam
- Doctoral Final Exam/Dissertation Defense

*A final culminating effort is not required for departments with an approved coursework-only master's degree option in the Academic Catalog (note that programs with a capstone are considered coursework only).

Before a student is allowed to complete any of these three exams, pre-approval from the College is required in advance of the exam date. This pre-approval request will be submitted on the student's behalf by their department after the exam date has been scheduled. The College reviews the student record and verifies all University requirements have been fulfilled. The full list of these requirements may be found via the link in the heading above. Students should work with their departments well in advance of their planned exam date, to schedule their exams in a timely fashion and to ensure that all University policies relating to oral exams are being followed.

There are additional policies requirements for oral exams. The following are University policies pertaining to oral exams:

Oral Exam Committee Composition

All voting committee members must be appointed members of KU's Graduate Faculty. Additionally, a majority of committee members serving on a graduate student oral examination committee must be tenured/tenure-track faculty in the candidate's department or program of study.

Many additional restrictions apply, especially for doctoral exam committees. Master's and doctoral students should carefully review the University policies pertaining to exams, as well as consult with their Director of Graduate Studies when forming an exam committee. Your graduate program coordinator can assist with confirming the qualifying status of any faculty member at KU or outside of KU.

Oral Exam Attendance

Oral Exams may be conducted in-person, remotely, or a hybrid of both. There are no University level requirements for physical presence; however, there are strict regulations on participation.

In all cases, all committee members must be present, either physically or via phone/video conference, for an exam to commence. **If a committee member does not arrive or appear, the exam may not**

begin and if a committee member leaves or loses connection such that they cannot fully participate, the exam may not proceed. Oral examinations that do not meet these attendance requirements are not valid.

Master's and doctoral students should carefully review the policies below, as well as consult with their Director of Graduate Studies in the formation of an oral exam committee.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Master's Student Oral Exam Committee Composition](#)
- [Doctoral Student Oral Exam Committee Composition](#)
- [Oral Exam Attendance](#)
- [Graduate Faculty Appointments](#)

DOCTORAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the student's individual PhD program's degree requirements, the following are University requirements for graduation with a PhD at KU.

Enrollment Requirement

Prior to the semester in which the comprehensive exam is held, all doctoral students must complete a minimum program engagement equivalent to two full-time semesters. This may be accomplished through either of the following:

- Two semesters (fall and/or spring) of full-time enrollment in KU coursework, as defined by University policy
- At least 18 hours of enrollment in KU coursework spread out over several part-time semesters

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Engagement and Enrollment in Doctoral Programs](#)

Continuous Enrollment for Post-Comprehensive Students

During the semester in which the doctoral oral comprehensive exam is completed and each fall and spring semester follows, doctoral students must adhere to very specific enrollment requirements. These requirements may be different than enrollment requirements prior to the oral comp exam. Failure to properly comply with the enrollment requirements may cause delays to graduation or additional enrollment requirements to make up what was missed, increasing tuition expenses near the end of your degree program.

To avoid delays or additional costs, you are also strongly advised to meet with your graduate program coordinator the semester before your oral comprehensive exam. Your graduate coordinator will work with you to develop an enrollment plan that meets all policy requirements, while also preventing unnecessary or avoidable fees.

Post-comprehensive enrollment requirements also apply to students with GTA/GRA/GA appointments, but these students must be certified to drop their enrollment levels. Departments are responsible for tracking student enrollment will submit the certification form on the student's behalf **at least two weeks prior** to the beginning of the semester in which the enrollment will drop below 6

hours. Students who are certified to reduce hours continue to meet the University's definition of full-time enrollment, as well as the enrollment requirements of their employment contract.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Full-time Enrollment for Graduate Students](#)
- [Doctoral Candidacy](#)

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

The University offers a variety of [Approved Graduate Certificate Programs](#) to encourage current graduate students to pursue interdisciplinary study, gain a credential for expertise in an outside area of study, or provide an option for a coherent course of advanced study for those not ready to commit to a full degree program. Note that students must be fully admitted to a graduate certificate by the end of the last course that will count to fulfill the certificate. Students wishing to complete the certificate should apply as early as possible. Students whose interests or career goals may be served by a Graduate Certificate should familiarize themselves with the University's policies relating to Certificate programs (found below) early in their graduate career, in addition to individual certificate program requirements.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Graduate Certificate Programs: Eligibility and Admission Criteria](#)
- [Policies & Procedures for Graduate Certificate Programs](#)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (M.A. & Ph.D.)

In addition to all program requirements, students [planning to graduate](#) must complete all University graduation requirements **prior to the published Graduation Deadline** in a given semester. Students should consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for the published Graduation Deadline, which varies by semester.

Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs Graduation Checklists ([Master's](#) | [Doctoral](#))

These graduation checklists provide a comprehensive list of all University requirements for graduation and should be consulted by every graduating master's or doctoral student as soon as graduation is expected. Submission of the final draft of the thesis or dissertation is done electronically. Students must comply with all University requirements for [formatting](#) and [electronic submission](#) of the thesis or dissertation. There is no University requirement that students provide a bound or printed copy of the draft.

“MY GRADUATION CHECKLIST” CANVAS COURSE

If you are graduating with a PhD or a thesis option master's degree, you will submit documents and track the completion of your graduation requirements via your "My Graduation Checklist" site in Canvas. This site will be your online hub for all instructions and resources related to degree completion and graduation.

Your My Graduation Checklist Canvas site will be activated at one of these times, whichever comes first:

- On the 20th day of classes for students who have submitted an Application for Graduation via Enroll & Pay for that semester
- When your department submits your exam date and information for pre-approval

- During the week after the graduation deadline, for students who have applied to graduate for the upcoming semester

We strongly encourage students to submit an Application for Graduation as early as possible, but at minimum prior to the 20th day of classes of the semester you want to graduate so that you can get access to the information and resources in your Graduation Checklist site as early as possible!

If your Graduation Checklist has not been activated yet, you can utilize the Graduation checklists referenced above.

Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs Funding Opportunities

Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs offers funding opportunities in several different categories. Students interested in applying should direct inquiries to the department's Director of Graduate Studies or to GPA. Some of the available funding opportunities include:

[Summer Research Scholarships](#): intended primarily for post-comp doctoral students.

[Graduate Student Travel Fund](#): intended for graduate students presenting a paper at a national or regional meeting of a learned or professional society. A student may receive an award (max \$750) only once per academic year, with priority given to students who have not received the fund previously. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

[Doctoral Student Research Fund](#): Designed to support KU doctoral students who need assistance to carry out research that advances progress toward the degree. Applications for this fund are accepted only for a limited time as funding is available. Students are eligible to receive one award from this fund during their doctoral career. Students should check the link above for additional information and restrictions.

11. Key Offices at KU

Anthropology's DGS or Graduate Coordinator is your first stop for any questions related to graduate study or requirements. If you would like to research an issue in advance of speaking with your department or if you still have questions, the following offices can provide assistance:

[College Office of Graduate Affairs \(COGA\)](#)

COGA oversees graduate affairs and administers university policy for programs within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The COGA website contains comprehensive information on requirements and processes pertaining to graduate education at KU. Most common questions can be answered with the information provided there, including questions regarding [enrollment changes or forms](#), university policies regarding [exams](#) and committee requirements, and university [graduation requirements](#). The College's [Master's Hooding Ceremony](#) is coordinated by COGA.

COGA reviews all [student petitions of university and College policy](#), issuing decisions on behalf of the College or referring as required to a faculty committee and/or the Office of Graduate Studies. The more common student petitions relate to [Enrollment](#), [Leave of Absence](#), and [Time Limit Extensions](#). COGA is a resource if you have questions about petitions or graduation requirements that your department is unable to answer. Refer to the COGA website for current staff contact information.

[Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs \(GPA\)](#)

Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs is the office of the Vice Provost of Graduate Studies at KU. The Executive Council of Graduate Faculty sets policies and regulations governing graduate study and offers various programs for graduate students throughout the year. While COGA should be your first stop for any questions your department cannot answer, you may be referred to Graduate Studies for certain matters, especially for questions about [GTA/GRA/GA appointments and policies](#). The university's [Doctoral Hooding Ceremony](#) is coordinated by Graduate Studies.

[Graduate Admissions](#)

Contact Graduate Admissions for questions regarding the KU Online Application for Graduate Study, Slate system, English proficiency requirements, and official transcripts.

[Office of the University Registrar \(OUR\)](#)

Contact OUR for questions related to enrollment (if the question cannot be resolved via the enrollment changes link provided above under COGA), tuition, campus fees, the Academic Calendar, and fee petitions.

[Financial Aid & Scholarships](#)

Contact Financial Aid for questions related to the disbursement of scholarships, fellowship awards, loans, and FAFSA.

[International Support Services \(ISS\)](#)

Contact ISS for questions related to international students, including enrollment requirements, international student insurance, obtaining a social security card, I-20 questions, and any issue related to student visas. While other offices on campus such as the AEC, Human Resources, or the Registrar may also handle related matters, because the students' legal status in the country may be affected, it is recommended that students contact ISS first.

[Center for Teaching Excellence \(CTE\)](#)

The CTE is a university office dedicated to assisting instructors, including GTAs, to develop effective instructional techniques. The expert staff of CTE can introduce instructors to the pedagogical technology available at the university and help instructors develop new approaches to teaching. CTE specialists work with instructors individually, and also offer a diverse array of workshops and discussions. They also can guide instructors to useful scholarly literature on the subject of college teaching and learning.