

The University of Memphis Department of Anthropology
M.A. Learning Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: *Students will learn the holistic theoretical and methodological foundations of anthropology.*

Objectives:

1. To comprehend the history of anthropology as a discipline and the progression of anthropological theories and methods in the 20th century.
2. To identify the foundations of applied anthropology and demonstrate track specific knowledge, especially in the medical and/or urban anthropology.
3. To evaluate the intellectual constructs of community development, empowerment, and policy as they relate to local and global issues.
4. To grasp and apply appropriate quantitative and qualitative techniques for anthropological and data collection and analysis.
5. To master key principles of anthropological research, evaluate their relevance for applied anthropology, and comprehend their implications for policies and programs.

Goal 2: *Students will enhance and apply critical analysis and independent thought.*

Objectives:

1. To evaluate critically and organize supporting data from broad sources to argue and debate their points.
2. To assess critically anthropological constructs, theories, and methods used in historic and current anthropological works.
3. To explore how various economic, political, and cultural forces (on local, national, and international scales) have shaped contemporary life in the Mid-South region.
4. To conceptualize, design, and implement research on significant anthropological problems for building and strengthening community wellbeing and quality of life.

Goal 3: *Students will gain practical experience in applying learned anthropological knowledge and methodology, and ethical principles.*

Objectives:

1. To demonstrate the contemporary application of theoretical paradigms in anthropology in addressing and solving real world problems.
2. To actively engage with faculty and community members on projects utilizing methodological training and knowledge building in a regional framework.
3. To conduct field studies, domestically and/or internationally, through field school, study abroad, methods workshops, service learning and/or internship opportunities within areas of their interests.
4. To advance engaged scholarship for the betterment of the community through outreach and research with communities and nonprofits using the “Memphis Model” of collaborative partnership.

5. To understand and apply professional ethical guidelines, including IRB Human Subjects Protection.

Goal 4: *Students will enhance written and oral communication skills.*

Objectives:

1. To write concisely and logically, and practice proper grammar, composition, and citation.
2. To demonstrate clear and effective communication skills for debating, and for informing and persuading audiences.
3. To experience opportunities to critically evaluate and apply relevant software and anthropological information in web-based databases and electronic formats.

Goal 5: *Students will implement professional training and career opportunities in Anthropology through graduate study and participation in professional activities.*

Objectives:

1. To obtain information on academic career paths and graduate programs through networking, interviews, seminars, literature, websites, and faculty mentoring.
2. To experience opportunities to attend meetings of the Society for Applied Anthropology, the American Anthropological Association, or other related professional organizations.