

George Washington University

MA degree in Anthropology with a concentration in International Development

This MA degree is a 36-credit hour, non-thesis program normally completed in two years. We admit students with significant anthropology background as well as some with little or no anthropology background. Some students have substantial professional experience and others have none. Some see the degree as a path to a professional career while others hope to go on for a PhD in anthropology.

All students are required to demonstrate competence in a language other than English.

Curriculum

1. Four-field core requirements: [3-12 credits; students with advanced undergraduate classes can be waived out of any of the proseminars other than Cultural Anthropology]

Archaeology

*Cultural Anthropology

Biological Anthropology

Linguistic Anthropology

2. Development concentration [15 credits]:

*Anthropology of Development (theory)

*Methods in Development Anthropology

Two additional anthropology courses related to development, as broadly defined (can include 3-credits for Internship in Development Anthropology)

*Quantitative Methods (can be Development Economics, Epidemiology, Demography, etc., as long as the course focuses on quantitative analysis)

3. Electives [9-18 credits, depending on the number of Proseminars taken]

International Affairs (including options from among a series of 1-credit Skills Courses)

Public Administration

Women's Studies

Courses in the professionals schools: Law School, Public Health, Education

4. The Integrating Essay [no credits]

All students, in order to receive the MA degree, have to write a successful Integrating Essay during their last semester. This 12-page paper must address a topic of importance to the student and write about the anthropological literature on the topic in three of anthropology's four fields.

Specific skills built into the curriculum

Research methods (especially short-term methods) for data collection

Critical thinking, reading and speaking

Literature review

Skills that the faculty encourage student to obtain outside of anthropology

Quantitative analytical skills

Professional experience through a reflective internship and internship report

Skills courses in the School of International Affairs and other professional schools such as Non-Profit Management

Other

· GW's program strikes me as less skills-oriented than some others. Motivated students, however, especially those who can waive out of the proseminars, have the opportunity of taking more skills courses than those that the program requires. Those who have to take all four proseminars gain less depth in anthropology, first, and have less opportunity to gain skills.

· The Department has an annual competition for BA, MA and PhD students for research grants up to around \$1800, normally used for summer research. Each year, usually one or two MA/Dev students get such an award. They, therefore, are able to gain experience in doing fieldwork, analyzing their field notes, and preparing a presentation for our annual Anthropology Student Research Conference.

· The Elliott School of International Affairs has an MA degree in International Development Studies with one of the concentration possibilities being anthropology. This degree program is more multidisciplinary and professionally oriented, with more requirements for economics and policy analysis. All students are required to do a team-based capstone project which requires finding an organization for whom they will prepare a report, developing their project, spending a week in the field (during spring break), and presenting the results of their findings. The program has an endowment that covers most of the costs of the research trip.