

Admissions – FAQs

Q. Where can I find information about applying to the graduate program in anthropology?

A. Information about applying to the graduate program here is available at the following addresses:

- College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), Interactive "How to Apply":
<http://chss.gmu.edu/howtoapply>
- Graduate Admissions, Application Requirements:
http://admissions.gmu.edu/grad/our_programs/progdetails.asp?progID=169
- Anthropology Graduate Program Webpage:
<http://soan.gmu.edu/programs/requirements/LA-MA-ANTH>

Q. Do you offer graduate courses in archaeology, physical anthropology or linguistics?

A. No. The Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in Anthropology Program at George Mason University has three major areas of emphasis: (1) advanced training in sociocultural anthropology; (2) culture, health and bioethics; and (3) transnational and global issues.

Q. What are your application deadlines?

A. April 1st for Fall admissions, and November 1st for Spring admissions. Early applications are encouraged, particularly if you are applying for an assistantship. We do consider some applications on a rolling basis, after the deadlines have expired. However, unless the application arrives shortly after the deadline it is unlikely to be reviewed, since it must arrive by the end of the semester to be reviewed by the department admissions committee. Applications have to be processed by Graduate Admissions before they are sent to the anthropology department for review. This means that if there is a missing letter of reference or transcript, we have not been sent the file. Applicants submitting after the admissions deadlines should consult the university calendars at <http://registrar.gmu.edu/index.html> to determine whether or not their application stands a realistic chance of being reviewed before the end of the semester. The anthropology admissions committee does review applications for admission during the summer or winter breaks. And any applicant submitting an application after the posted deadline will not be considered for graduate teaching or research assistantships.

Q. Is there any funding available for prospective graduate students?

A. We have extremely limited funds available in the form of graduate teaching assistantships (GTAs). They are available only for the Fall application cycle (i.e. the April 1 deadline). There is space on your application to indicate whether you wish to be considered for such funding. Graduate students in the department are also encouraged to seek funding in other units (for instance, graduate students in the past have received assistantships through Global Affairs,

Public Policy, the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, etc.). You should contact those units directly. Please note that if your application arrives to the department after the deadline for admission you are not considered for funding. This means that if you wish to be considered, you should ensure that all documentation (including transcripts and references) arrive before the April 1 deadline.

Q. If I do not have a BA in Anthropology, can I still apply to the program?

A. Yes, but we generally do not consider applications with less than 2 courses in undergraduate anthropology. We have occasionally provisionally admitted applicants with less than the required number of courses in anthropology. Officially, we state, “Students are expected to have 6 credits of undergraduate sociocultural anthropology ... Students without these undergraduate foundation courses may be admitted, but must take any required undergraduate foundation courses within the first 12 credits of the graduate program and achieve a B (3.0) grade or above in each course.” But these cases are rare. Please note that having lived abroad or exhibiting a passion for international travel are not in themselves qualifications for admission to a graduate program in anthropology, neither are they a substitution for an academic training in cultural anthropology. It is thus highly recommended that students who do not have the required 2 undergraduate courses in anthropology take those two courses (through a non-degree track, or at the extension branch of another university institution) *prior* to applying to the program.

Q. Can I still apply if my undergraduate GPA was less than 3.0?

A. We really prefer that applicants have at least a 3.0 undergraduate GPA. Occasionally we have admitted applicants with a slightly lower GPA, but those cases have been rare. In the cases where we have, there have been extenuating circumstances, such as a serious illness that caused the applicant to have failing grades for a semester or year. Such extenuating circumstances should be explicitly stated in the application.