



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Department of Anthropology

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Anthropology Department Handbook

niu.edu/anthro

Revised April 14, 2025

The intent of this handbook is to provide a ready reference covering current rules, regulations, and procedures governing undergraduate and graduate program offerings in the Department of Anthropology at Northern Illinois University.

It is expected that each undergraduate student, graduate student and faculty member in the Department will remain familiar with and abide by the established departmental and University policies outlined in the handbook. If a situation or question arises that does not appear to be covered by the material included herein, or a clearer interpretation of an established policy is required, you should consult with the Undergraduate Advisor, Director of Graduate Studies or the Department Chair.

University policies are subject to change; graduate students and faculty should be aware of current regulations as set forth in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#) and [Graduate Catalog](#).

Northern Illinois University

Northern Illinois University is a state-supported, comprehensive university, located 65 miles west of Chicago's lakefront, in the city of DeKalb (population 40,290). Founded in 1895, NIU now ranks as Illinois' fourth-largest state university, with an enrollment of approximately 16,000 students in the Colleges of Business, Education, Engineering & Engineering Technology, Health & Human Sciences, Law, Liberal Arts & Sciences, and Visual & Performing Arts. NIU boasts 100 undergraduate programs, more than 80 graduate programs, a 2.3-million volume library, and all the cultural, social, and intellectual features and supports characteristic of large, mid-western universities. The university's proximity to Chicago, Rockford, and the Fox Valley provides additional resources within easy driving distance.

Anthropology at NIU

In 1971, the Department of Anthropology was established as an academic department in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The anthropology program now offers both the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science undergraduate degrees, as well as the Master of Arts. The anthropology faculty numbers 8 full-time, four affiliated and/or instructional faculty, and a museum director. Faculty research and teaching interests span all four sub-disciplines of anthropology (archaeology, linguistic anthropology, biological anthropology and social/cultural anthropology), as well as applied anthropology. The department boasts excellent research programs and research and teaching collections. Several faculty members play central roles in NIU's Cognitive Studies Initiative, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality, the Center for Non-profit and NGO Studies, the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, the Institute for the Environment, Sustainability and Energy, and the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability. Another integral aspect of anthropology at NIU is the Pick Museum of Anthropology, which provides student experience and training in anthropological museology.

The undergraduate anthropology program at NIU has approximately 60 anthropology majors working on either a B.A. or B.S. degree. The graduate program enrolls approximately 20 students working toward the M.A. During the last five years (2020-2024), the department has produced 23 M.A. and 44 B.A./B.S. degrees. In the past decade our graduates have been accepted at universities such as the City University of New York, University of South Florida, University of Florida, University of Virginia, Wayne State University, University of California Santa Barbara, and Arizona State University. During this same period, our graduates have been hired at several area community colleges (Kishwaukee, Waubesa, College of DuPage, William Rainey Harper, Elgin), several contract archaeology companies and several museums (including the Logan Museum of Anthropology, The Burpee Museum of Natural History, and American Museum of Natural History).

Please reach out to the department with any questions at askAnthro@niu.edu or +1 (815) 753-0246.

Department of Anthropology Faculty:

| Name | Title | Specialty and Geographic Focus |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Dr. Dana Bardolph | Assistant Professor | Archaeology, Palaeoethnobotany (Peru, USA) |
| Dr. William Balco | Instructor | Archaeology (Italy, USA) |
| Dr. Giovanni Bennardo | Professor | Linguistic Anthropology, Cultural Models (Tonga, Polynesia) |
| Dr. Kristen Borre | Instructor | Cultural and Medical Anthropology (Canadian Arctic, USA) |
| Dr. Christy DeLair | Director, Pick Museum of Anthropology | Museum Studies and Cultural Anthropology (Taiwan) |
| Dr. Timothy Horsley | Affiliate | Archaeology, Geophysics (USA) |
| Dr. Mitchell Irwin | Professor and Chair | Biological Anthropology, Primatology (Madagascar) |
| Dr. Emily McKee | Associate Professor | Cultural Anthropology, Environmental Anthropology (Middle East, USA) |
| Dr. Micah Morton | Assistant Professor | Cultural Anthropology, Indigeneity, Religion (Thailand, Myanmar/Burma, Laos, SW China) |
| Dr. Leila Porter | Professor | Biological Anthropology, Primatology (Bolivia) |
| Marcy Prchal | Instructor | Archaeology, Architectural History (USA) |
| Dr. Mark Schuller | Professor | Cultural Anthropology, NGO Studies (Haiti, Cuba) |
| Dr. Ivan Small | Professor | Cultural Anthropology, Migration (Vietnam, USA) |

Anthropology Undergraduate Program (BA/BS)

For up-to-date program requirements and course descriptions, as well as important information on general education and other requirements for graduation, refer to:

https://catalog.niu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=60&poid=16151&returnto=3130

The B.A. and B.S. programs in anthropology at NIU emphasize a broad training in the liberal arts and in all four sub-disciplines of anthropology. The major consists of a minimum of 36 hours in anthropology (ANTH), distributed as indicated below.

Requirements for the Major:

Requirements within the Department are:

1. ANTH 210 (Exploring Archaeology); ANTH 220 (Being Human: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology); ANTH 230 (Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology); ANTH 240 (Becoming Human: Discovering Human Origins). These courses are 3 semester hours each for a total of 12 semester hours, and each is a prerequisite for 300- and 400-level courses in the respective sub-discipline (Archaeology, Cultural Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology, and Biological Anthropology). You should take all four 200-level courses as early in your tenure at NIU as possible.
2. One 300/400 level course in each subfield (Archaeology, Cultural Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology, Biological Anthropology).
3. Four additional ANTH courses, at the 200-level or above (Anthropology Electives). Any ANTH courses at the 200-level or above can satisfy this requirement. Students may wish to concentrate their studies by selecting elective courses in order to complete four elective courses in one of three emphasis areas: (i) Social Complexity and Inequality; (ii) Environment and Evolution; (iii) Language Culture and Mind. More detail can be found in the [undergraduate catalog](#) and [department website](#).

In addition, each student must also:

1. Take nine hours of work at the 200 level or above in a single discipline other than anthropology, chosen in consultation with an anthropology adviser. These courses can also be used as a part of general education requirements or requirements for a minor or second major other than anthropology.
2. Meet special requirements for either the B.A. or B.S. degree:
 - a. The B.A. degree requires completion of the second year of a foreign language.
 - b. The B.S. degree requires a laboratory sciences/mathematical/computational skills course sequence.

Each student should consult with an anthropology adviser or the department chair on a regular basis to ensure proper course selection for degree completion.

Anthropology Honors

Majors with at least a 3.30 overall GPA and a minimum 3.50 GPA in anthropology courses are eligible for the Anthropology degree with honors. Additional requirements for earning the baccalaureate degree in anthropology with honors include taking 15 semester hours of departmental honors courses in anthropology, taking 6 semester hours of ANTH 499 (senior honors research thesis) in lieu of 6 semester hours of electives in anthropology, and presenting an acceptable senior thesis. Interested students must contact an anthropology faculty member to advise their thesis and agree upon a schedule and credit hours for ANTH 499.

The University Honors Program is separate but complementary to the departmental degree with honors. Eligible students may participate in one or both programs simultaneously since there is some overlap in the requirements. Students interested in the University Honors Program are encouraged to contact the University Honors office for more detailed information.

Points to remember about your major and undergraduate degree requirements:

1. You must have at least **120** semester hours to graduate, at least **40** of which must be at the 300 level or above, and **30** of the final 60 semester hours must be taken at NIU.
2. All students must fulfill the General Education Requirements and the Human Diversity Baccalaureate Department.
3. The department strongly recommends that majors planning to go to graduate school take appropriate mathematics courses (e.g., MATH 229 or 210 and 211) plus a statistics course (at least STAT 200 and preferably STAT 300).

Requirements for the Minor

A minor requires 18 hours of classes. You must take two of the following courses: ANTH 210 (Exploring Archaeology); ANTH 220 (Being Human: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology); ANTH 230 (Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology); ANTH 240 (Becoming Human: Discovering Human Origins). You then need to select four courses (12 additional hours) in anthropology at the 200-level or above, in consultation with a faculty adviser. Six or more semester hours in the minor must be taken at NIU.

Educator Licensure

Students who want to be licensed to teach anthropology at the secondary level must declare their intention to do so with the History and Social Sciences Educator Licensure Program at the earliest possible opportunity. Educator licensure involves significant requirements in addition to the completion of a degree in anthropology. More information is available in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

Anthropology Graduate Program (MA)

The MA in anthropology at NIU is intended to provide each student with a firm foundation in all four sub-disciplines of anthropology, as well as the opportunity to intensively pursue specific aspects of the field. Graduates should be qualified to go on to various careers or career paths in Anthropology, including teaching at a community college, working in the public or private sector, or continuing to a research-based PhD program to obtain a terminal degree.

The Anthropology Graduate Program functions under the rules established in the NIU Graduate School, by the Dean of the Graduate School and the Graduate Council, a university-wide body composed of elected and appointed faculty members and one graduate student member from each college.

For up-to-date program requirements and course descriptions, refer to:

https://catalog.niu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=61&poid=16716&returnto=3192,

particularly the [General Regulations](#) and [Requirements for Graduate Degrees](#).

Students must satisfy the degree requirements of the Graduate Catalog in effect at the time they are admitted to and begin course work in a degree program; or they may, with the consent of their advisor, meet graduation requirements by complying with the provisions of a later catalog. Aside from degree requirements, students are subject to the academic policies and regulations of the catalog currently in effect.

How to Apply:

Student must apply through the NIU Graduate School's online application system:

<https://www.niu.edu/grad/admissions/apply-now.shtml>

Questions regarding applications for graduate study at NIU may be directed to the [Department of Anthropology](#) or the [NIU Graduate School](#). Completed applications, along with supporting materials, should be submitted through the NIU Graduate School website.

Application Requirements:

1. Baccalaureate Field: A B.A./B.S. from Anthropology or a related field is required to be considered for admission.
 - a. Applicants for admission to this degree program are expected to have completed at least 15 undergraduate semester hours in anthropology. Students lacking this background will be required to take compensatory work during their graduate program. Additionally, students lacking specific undergraduate coursework that is considered preparation for a required graduate course may be required to take compensatory work in advance of enrolling in that graduate course.

2. Letters of Recommendation: Two or more letters of recommendation from individuals who can speak to your ability to be successful in the completion of a graduate-level degree program. The individuals who submit a letter for you (referees) should be individuals who have a professional or academic relationship with you. Referees who are not professors should be familiar with the demands of a graduate program. Letters should describe your academic ability and goals, as well as your ability to succeed in the Anthropology program.
 - a. Tell your referees what program you applied to and the due date for the letter, which is the same date as the graduate application deadline.
 - b. When you apply, you must indicate if you wish to waive your right to see the letters. Some referees will only consent to write a letter if you waive your right to see it. If you plan to retain your right to read the letter, then you should talk to your referee first.
3. Personal Statement: Your personal statement should be approximately 750 to 1000 words in length. It should outline your preparation for graduate study in your chosen field, as well as your goals for graduate school and beyond. In the statement, you should also explain why you believe the NIU Anthropology program and its faculty can help you meet your goals. If you are applying to the thesis track, explain how your research interests overlap with the research interests of a particular faculty member (or members) who might potentially serve as thesis advisor(s). **The department strongly encourages prospective students to reach out to faculty members to discuss thematic fit and research project potential as they prepare their application materials.**
4. Official transcripts from all universities or colleges attended.
5. Proof of English language proficiency.

Recommended Academic Preparation

Applicants for the M.A. program are expected to have completed at least 15 undergraduate semester hours in anthropology and a course in statistics. However, highly motivated students without an extensive anthropology background are encouraged to apply. Students with limited anthropology background should consult with their advisor and/or Director of Graduate Studies before registering for any classes at NIU.

Application Deadlines

The Anthropology department has three separate admissions cycles each year:

| Application Period | To Start In: | Funding Options | Decision Period |
|--------------------|--------------|---|-----------------|
| Dec. 1 – Feb. 1 | Fall | Graduate assistantships and tuition waivers | March |
| Feb. 2 – April 30 | Fall | None | May |
| May 1 – Nov. 1 | Spring | None | December |

Applications for the fall semester (August) enrollment will be reviewed beginning on February 1 for students seeking graduate assistantships and tuition waivers, and on April 30 for those not seeking funding. ***Please note that students seeking financial support must submit both the application for admission (through the NIU Graduate School) and the Anthropology Graduate Assistantship Application (by email to the Anthropology Department) by February 1.***

Applications for the spring semester (January) enrollment will be reviewed beginning on November 1. Spring semester applicants generally are not eligible for graduate assistantships and tuition waivers, but students may be eligible in the following academic year of the program if granted admission.

Please note that applications cannot be considered until they are complete (including all supporting materials); it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all materials, including supporting letters, are received before the deadline.

Applying for Financial Aid

The department has several graduate assistantships (GAs) which carry a full tuition waiver and a stipend. These assistantships may be for either 10 or 20 hours of service per week. The tuition waiver does not cover fees assessed by the University.

To apply, you must complete an [Application for a Graduate Assistantship](#). This form should be sent ***directly to the Department of Anthropology***. The deadline for GA applications is **February 1st, and the applicant's application must also be completed by this deadline.**

Students awarded a Teaching Assistantship should be familiar with the department's "Description of TA Duties and Expectations", which will be provided to the student following appointment.

In some years, Anthropology MA students may be eligible to apply for assistantship funding and tuition waivers through other departments and centers at NIU that have thematic or skills-based overlap with Anthropology. These opportunities may include the Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability and Energy (<https://www.niu.edu/clas/ese/index.shtml>), the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (<https://www.niu.edu/clas/cswgs/index.shtml>), and the NIU

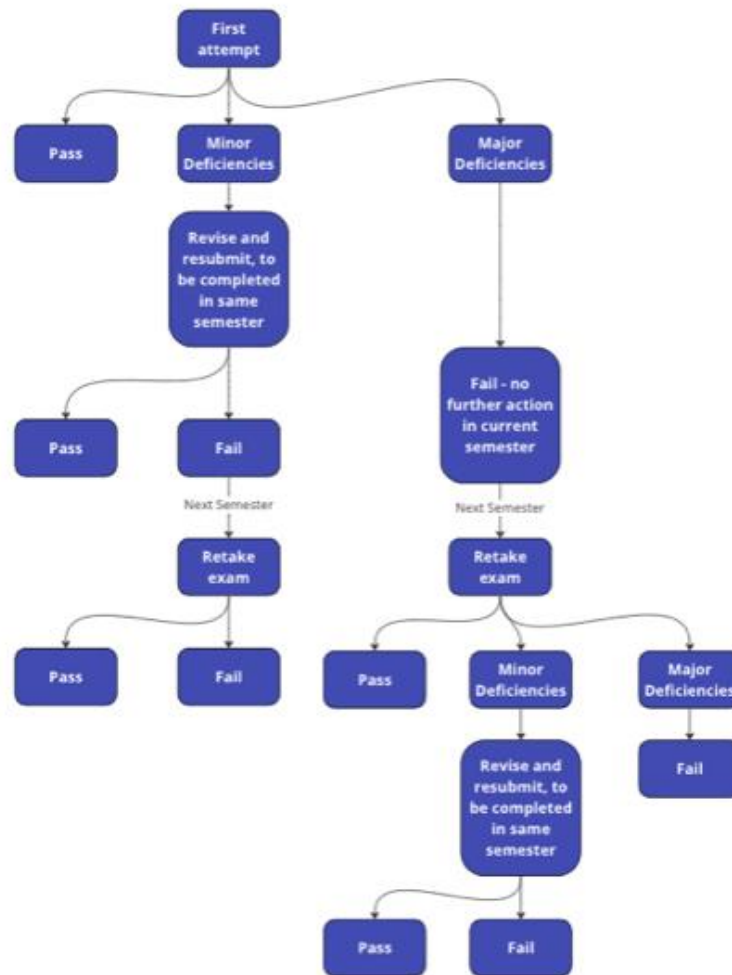
Writing Center (<https://www.niu.edu/academic-support/get-help/writing-center/index.shtml>). For students with a focus in Southeast Asia, funding may be available through the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Information regarding Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships for the study of Burmese, Thai, Tagalog, Khmer or Indonesian languages (<https://www.niu.edu/clas/cseas/academics/funding.shtml>).

M.A. Degree Requirements

1. Each student must choose one of the following options:
 - a **Thesis Option** - Students selecting this option must:
 - i Pass the **qualifying** examination administered and graded by all the members of that sub-field of anthropology.
 - ii Submit a thesis proposal that is approved by the students' committee and department. This proposal can be presented to the faculty at any time during the student's tenure at NIU and should be written in close consultation with the student's adviser.
 - iii Register for at least 3 semester hours of credit in ANTH 699 (Thesis). A maximum of 6 semester hours of ANTH 699 may be used to satisfy program requirements, though more can be taken. ***The qualifying examination and thesis proposal must be passed before formal registration in ANTH 699.***
 - iv Write a research thesis in their chosen major sub-field of Anthropology that is publicly defended and passed by the student's thesis committee.
 - b **Non-thesis Option** - Students selecting this option are required to demonstrate broad proficiency in Anthropology by successfully completing the four comprehensive examinations in anthropology (one exam in each subfield). These exams will be written and graded by the faculty on the department's Examination Committee.
2. Required Coursework: Total Credits
 - a Thesis students must take at least 30 semester hours of graduate work, distributed as outlined below. Non-thesis students must take an additional 6 hours of graduate work (total 36 hours). Students should choose their courses in consultation with their adviser and/or the Director of Graduate Studies.
3. Required Courses: Specifics
 - a All students must take a **minimum** of one course for graduate credit from each of the four sub-fields (12 credits total):
 - i Archaeology
 - ii Cultural Anthropology
 - iii Linguistic Anthropology
 - iv Biological Anthropology

- b Thesis Students: Must take at least 18 additional semester hours of which at least 12 must be in anthropology. Those 12 hours in anthropology must include at least 3 hours of ANTH 699 (see below).
 - c Non-thesis students: Must take at least 24 additional semester hours of which at least 18 must be in anthropology. Independent study courses may not be substituted for required courses without the consent of the student's adviser and the department chair.
- 4. Each student (both thesis and non-thesis) also must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of their committee, proficiency in either statistics or a foreign language useful to the student's research, or, with the committee's approval gain efficiency in a comparable research skill. Proficiency in statistics can be demonstrated by taking STAT 300 or a higher-level course at NIU. In some cases, equivalent courses from other institutions can fulfill this requirement. Foreign language proficiency can be demonstrated by successful completion of intermediate (normally second year) foreign language. Either requirement can be fulfilled based on work at the undergraduate level. Note that these courses in foreign language or statistics are normally offered for undergraduate credit only and will not count as a part of the student's graduate hour requirement at NIU. Questions about fulfillment of these requirements should be directed to the Director of Graduate Studies.
- 5. Rules for passing the **Qualifying and Comprehensive Exams**
 - a Qualifying Exam
 - i A student has two attempts to pass their qualifying exam. If they do not pass on their first attempt, please see Figure 1 for subsequent options.
 - ii If a student fails on the second attempt, they will be dismissed from the program at the end of the semester.
 - b Comprehensive Exams
 - i For each comprehensive exam, a student has two attempts to pass. If a student fails on their first attempt, then they may retake the exam the next semester. If they fail on their second attempt for any subfield, then the student will be dismissed from the program at the end of the semester.

Figure 1. Possible pathways for passing the Qualifying Exam (this image duplicates the information available in the text, above)



Thesis Committee

To successfully pursue a Master's Thesis in Anthropology, students must first assemble a committee. The student's advisor serves as committee member and chair of the committee; in some circumstances two committee members may serve as co-chairs. It is the student's responsibility to approach potential committee members (in consultation with the advisor) and explain the nature and scope of their proposed MA research. This committee must contain at least three members, and all members must be members of the recognized Graduate Faculty, a list maintained by the NIU Graduate School. The committee may include topic specialists in other departments at NIU, or specialists beyond NIU, but these members must be formally nominated and approved for NIU Graduate Faculty status. The composition of the committee is subject to the approval of the NIU Graduate School and must adhere to the following requirements:

- At least one-half of the members must be tenured or tenure-track faculty members at Northern Illinois University.
- At least one-half of the members must be full or senior members of the graduate faculty at Northern Illinois University.
- All members must belong to the graduate faculty in the student's program or a closely related one as determined by the department chair (or designee).

The committee must be formed no later than the conclusion of the semester preceding that in which the student will defend the thesis (though it is to the student's advantage to form the committee as soon as possible).

Thesis Proposal, Thesis and Thesis Defense Guidelines

To successfully complete a Master's Thesis in Anthropology, students must submit a written thesis and present their thesis research at an oral defense.

All students must write a **thesis proposal** which is approved by their committee and then sent out for one week for review by all tenure/tenure-track faculty in the department.

The written **MA thesis** must document their research question, methods, findings and implications, must follow the NIU Graduate School formatting requirements (<https://www.niu.edu/grad/pdf/thesis/etd-guidelines-thesis.pdf>), and must be submitted directly to the NIU Graduate School. This is the student's original work, although it is completed under the direction of the student's MA advisor and thesis committee, from whom they receive guidance and feedback. To be accepted, a thesis must be approved by all committee members.

The thesis may be written in monograph form with traditional chapters (Introduction, Review of Theory, Description of the Project, Methods, Results, Discussion), or it may be written as an article intended for submission to a major journal relevant to the student's research. A student, in consultation with their advisor and committee members, should determine which option is most appropriate for their project. If the student writes their thesis in article form, the student and committee should identify an appropriate peer-reviewed journal in their subfield and format their thesis according to that journal's guidelines. However, the submitted thesis also must follow university guidelines, so a modified version may be required for submission to the NIU Graduate School to complete their degree requirements.

For both options (monograph or article), once data collection is completed, and the student writes-up their results, it is expected that the advisor and committee members offer feedback, and the student must make revisions for their committee.

Students who choose the article format can separately submit the manuscript to a journal at any time. The review and publication process of the journal is separate from the student's responsibilities to NIU. The article does not need to be accepted or published to graduate from NIU.

Finally, the student must hold an oral defense, which must be open to all members of the department (faculty and students) and the broader community. The student must submit the “request for oral defense” form to the Graduate School before the appropriate semester deadline. Separately, the date, time and place must be announced to the department’s faculty and students at least **one week** before the defense. The defense must include a presentation of research results and provide an opportunity for questions from the audience, as well as a restricted examination session involving questions from the thesis committee. The thesis defense may be in-person, virtual or hybrid.

Important Notes on the Anthropology Graduate Program

- 1) In some circumstances, students may switch between the thesis and non-thesis tracks.
 - a) After passing the comprehensive (four-field) examinations, a student may shift to the thesis option and write a thesis. This would require a commitment from a faculty member to be that student’s thesis advisor, and the formation of a thesis committee. The additional 6 semester hours required for the non-thesis option would no longer be required.
 - b) After passing the qualifying (single-field) examination, a student may shift to the non-thesis option. They would then need to pass the comprehensive examination in the other three sub-disciplines of anthropology and ensure completion of 36 semester hours.
 - c) Before passing a qualifying (single-field) examination, a student may shift to the non-thesis option. They would then be responsible for taking comprehensive examinations in all four sub-disciplines of Anthropology and ensuring completing of 36 credit hours.
- 2) The specific course requirements for the M.A. degree are minimal in order to facilitate flexibility for students in designing their graduate program. It is important that courses be selected carefully by the student and in close collaboration with the student’s advisor and/or department chair.
- 3) Independent study courses can be substituted for required courses only with the approval of the student’s advisor and the department chair.

Timeline to Degree Completion

Graduate students and the Department of Anthropology have a shared obligation to ensure timely progress in achieving degree requirements and ensure timely graduation. Although the members of the Departmental Faculty realize that students may experience setbacks or hardships that make progress difficult, this shared obligation is necessary to ensure appropriate career progress.

The **target timeline** for all MA students shall be four semesters in the program spread over two academic years (not including summer sessions). This target timeline is

reflected in the usual practice of restricting Department of Anthropology Graduate Assistantships to a period of two years, in most cases.

In the event that a student does not anticipate they will meet the deadline to graduate during their fourth non-summer semester in the program (usually the spring of the second year), they will be required to meet with the Anthropology Director of Graduate Studies during that fourth semester, in order to discuss and record an appropriate time to graduation.

For any student who is entering into a **third academic year**, a meeting with the Anthropology Director of Graduate Studies will be required at the beginning of that year, in order to discuss degree progress and time to graduation.

In the event that a student continues into a **fourth academic year**, “Student Progress Meetings” will be required at the beginning of each Fall and Spring semester; the student, the student’s graduate advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies must be present and discuss the student’s timeline to completion and specific plan for completion milestones. A failure by the student to attend this meeting may result in dismissal from the MA program. If a student fails to meet completion milestones from a previous meeting, they will receive a written warning from the Director of Graduate Studies; this written warning may be issued as soon as the first semester of the student’s fourth academic year. If the student does not rectify the situation and make satisfactory progress by the next semester’s meeting, the student may be dismissed from the program at the discretion of the Director of Graduate Studies.

The NIU Graduate School stipulates that MA students must fulfill all requirements for a degree within the **six consecutive years** immediately preceding the date of the student’s graduation from that degree program. This time limit applies to enrollment in all graduate course work used to satisfy degree requirements including work for which transfer credit is allowed

(<https://catalog.niu.edu/content.php?catoid=61&navoid=3202>). If any course falls outside the six-year period, a student may retake the class with departmental approval, substitute another course of equivalent semester hours that meets the same requirement, or discuss with the Director of Graduate Studies the possibility of having the course “revalidated” (a process by which the student demonstrates current knowledge of the material to the satisfaction of appropriate faculty).

If circumstances prohibit continuing progress on the work, a graduate student may request a leave of absence from the office of the dean of the Graduate School.

Funding for Graduate Student Research and Conference Travel

Anthropology MA students may apply to the department for funding to defray the costs of research (research-related travel, materials and other expenses), and to defray the costs of travel to conferences at which they present their research findings. The Director of Graduate Studies will inform students of the funding opportunities (including limits and guidelines) once per semester. Additionally, thesis advisors and committee

members typically work with students to identify other potential funding sources (from NIU units or external to NIU) to which they may apply.

There is the possibility of support for students available from the Center for Latino & Latin American Studies (<https://www.niu.edu/clas/latino-studies/resources/grants.shtml>), and from the Clark and Arlene Neher Graduate Fellowship in Southeast Asian Studies, the Dwight Y. King Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Indonesia, and Thai Studies Awards (<https://www.niu.edu/clas/cseas/academics/funding.shtml>).

NIU Graduate School Forms and Deadlines

Student must actively monitor the [deadlines](#) required by the NIU Graduate School, and must be responsible for timely submission of all [forms](#) required for degree progress and graduation. This includes the “Application for Graduation” form, which must be submitted on time to ensure graduation in the desired term. If a student applies for graduation in a particular term but realizes that degree requirements will not be met or otherwise fails to graduate at the end of that term, the student must submit a Deferral of Graduation Request.

Academic Standing

To remain in good academic standing a graduate student, including students-at-large, must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 in all graduate courses required on the student’s program of courses (excluding deficiency courses taken for graduate credit) as well as in all graduate courses taken. The GPA is computed on a cumulative basis by dividing the total number of grade points by the total number of credit hours that a student has taken in courses earning grade points. The GPA includes any course work taken at NIU for which a student earned graduate credit, but not graduate work taken at other institutions that is accepted toward meeting the requirements of an NIU graduate degree or certificate. Courses in which a student has received I, O, S, or W are not included in this computation.

Following any academic term at the end of which the cumulative graduate GPA falls below 3.00, the student will be considered on academic probation. A student on academic probation who fails to earn a 3.00 term GPA (not cumulative GPA) in any future semester may be dismissed from the Graduate School. Prior to dismissal, the Graduate School will consult with the program (e.g., graduate program director or chair). For more information, refer to the NIU Graduate Catalog’s [General Regulations](#).

NIU Department of Anthropology Units and Resources

The Anthropology Club

The Anthropology Club is made up of both graduate and undergraduate students with interests in anthropology. It is intended to foster contact among student anthropologists on campus and between faculty and students. The club sponsors both social and professional functions each year. Professional functions may include helping the Pick Museum of Anthropology with projects and sponsorship of the Anthropology Club Colloquium. This series features presentations by NIU and other anthropologists concerning their own research or other interesting (often new and controversial) topics relevant to anthropology.

Anthropology Graduate Student Council

The Anthropology Graduate Student Council works to give graduate students a voice in the anthropology department. The purpose of the Anthropology Graduate Student Council is to facilitate communication between faculty and graduate students, to promote educational and professional development for the graduate students, and to organize social events to bring graduate students together. The Graduate Council meets regularly to discuss graduate student goal and priorities and works closely with faculty to ensure that graduate students have the best possible educational experience. The graduate student council encourages all interested students and faculty to participate in meetings and projects. Everyone is welcome.

[The Pick Museum of Anthropology](#)

History

The Anthropology Museum at Northern Illinois University was founded in 1964 and is operated as part of the Department of Anthropology. The museum houses approximately 10,000 ethnographic objects and 12,000 archaeological artifacts.

The museum specializes in cultures of Southeast Asia, New Guinea, Southwest and Plains Native America, Oceania, Latin America and Africa. The museum is particularly proud of the Native American basket collection, featuring over 200 specimens, as well as the Indonesian textile collection, which contains over 600 pieces. In addition, the museum also houses about 100 different Indonesian shadow puppets, a fine collection of Thai khon masks, and important collections of Hmong and Karen artifacts. The museum has a growing collection of modern Mesoamerican artifacts reflecting the cultural and artistic changes taking place in modern Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico.

After 50 years, the museum is proud to announce a name change in honor of NIU alumnus James Pick and his wife Rosalyn Laudati who have established an endowment for the museum. This generous gift is already transforming the museum into the cultural heart of the *Communiversi*ty, providing dynamic opportunities for people of all ages to

marvel at the world's cultural diversity, revel in the history of human innovation, and become more active citizens in our global community.

Mission, Vision and Values:

MISSION: To inspire activism for social justice and promote understanding of human diversity through engagement with museum collections, exhibitions and programs.

VISION: To be community-centered in all our practices and a gathering place to explore the human experience.

VALUES:

- We support the well-being of people and the environment through sustainable, accessible and equitable practices
- We care for and honor cultural heritage collections through consultation and collaboration with descendant communities.
- We reflect on and act to redress the harmful effects of museums' colonial and racist practices, as well as any practices that have contributed to other forms of social injustice.
- We engage in innovative scholarship that stimulates curiosity, creativity and critical thinking.

Biological Anthropology Collection

NIU's Department of Anthropology houses an extensive human osteology teaching collection consisting of thousands of specimens documenting the extent of human and geographic variation, as well as a wide range of pathological conditions. The department also boasts a world-class collection of fossil human casts and is the largest university collection of its type in all the Midwest. This cast collection spans the entire epoch of human evolutionary history from the earliest bipedal hominids (*Australopithecus*, *Sahelanthropus* and many others), up through the emergence of the human lineage. Additionally, we are fortunate to have several mounted skeletons of over 20 different species of primates, ranging from the smallest prosimians to the largest of the apes. Along with primates, NIU's collection also has skeletal material of several non-primate mammals including bats, carnivores, fish, and others. All the material in the collection is openly available for undergraduate and graduate student use during class, as well as for independent research.

Related Academic Units and Projects

[The Center for Southeast Asian Studies \(CSEAS\)](#)

Through academic endeavor and public outreach, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) at NIU is dedicated to increasing the world's knowledge and understanding of Southeast Asia's eleven countries: **Brunei, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.**

For those pursuing an undergraduate minor or contract major in Southeast Asian studies, or a Southeast Asia-focused graduate certificate, NIU and CSEAS offer:

- Fellowships and scholarship opportunities
- Language training in Burmese, Indonesian, Khmer, Tagalog, Thai, and distance Vietnamese (via UW-Madison)
- Research in a variety of disciplines
- Cultural and networking activities
- Study abroad programs

Established at NIU in 1963, CSEAS grew out of one of the first Peace Corps training programs for Southeast Asia volunteers. Since 1997, it has been a federally funded undergraduate and graduate-level **National Resource Center** for Southeast Asian studies. Under the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, it is guided by Center staff and an interdisciplinary council of faculty associates.

CSEAS supports community outreach projects and K-16 teacher training and faculty support on Southeast Asian topics. It also partners with US government departments, international entities, and other organizations on academic and youth leadership training programs.

[Center for Latino and Latin American Studies](#)

The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies (CLLAS) is located near the center of campus and serves the university's faculty and students through a variety of research and cultural programs. Approximately thirty faculty associates from various academic disciplines are affiliated with the Center, and numerous graduate and undergraduate students participate in its programs. Faculty associates include senior scholars with international reputations as well as junior colleagues with exciting research agendas. Students enrolled in departments in the humanities, social sciences, arts, and the sciences actively participate in Center programs.

The Center offers a minor in Latino and Latin American Studies, a graduate certificate in Latin American Studies, research grants for affiliated faculty and graduate students, undergraduate scholarships, a speaker series, cultural programming, and outreach activities. The Center moved into a new building in 1999 which it shares with the Latino Resource Center, which provides support services for Latino students. The building's

architecture features a southwestern motif and ample space and facilities for staff and students. The interior includes a computer lab, a smart classroom, library, study areas, administrative offices, and an atrium suitable for art exhibits.

Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

CSWGS offers interdisciplinary academic programs that, in the analysis of human culture, focus on:

- The contributions and status of women and LGBTQ+ people.
- Understandings of love and sexuality in relationships.
- The dynamics of sex roles and gender ideals, past and present.
- The impact of race, ethnicity, age, social class, sexual orientation, ability, and other factors on women's experiences and the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ (LGBTQ+) people.

Center for Non-profit and NGO Studies

Combining different disciplines, theory, and real-life practice is what we do in the Center for Nonprofit and NGO Studies. Through the Nonprofit and NGO Studies major, minor, and certificate we offer NIU students with all different talents, passions, and experiences the ability to learn about the nonprofit and NGO worlds and make a difference in their communities. We are supported by and collaborate with nonprofit communities both locally and regionally and offer our students opportunities to explore diverse service organizations and find their niche in the world. The Center offers a major, a minor and a certificate in Nonprofit and NGO Studies.

The Institute for the Study of Environment, Sustainability and Energy (ESE)

The ESE exists to foster research, education and community engagement about the environment and sustainability. The institute offers two undergraduate degrees in environmental studies: a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree. These interdisciplinary programs feature classes and research led by NIU faculty from several different colleges. Students may choose from the following five areas of emphasis:

- Biodiversity and Environmental Restoration
- Environmental Justice
- Environmental Policy
- Sustainability and Energy Studies
- Sustainable Food Systems
- Secondary Educator Licensure

The Institute also offers a minor in environmental studies, certificate of undergraduate study in sustainable food systems, and a teacher certification program in environmental science.

Cognitive Studies Initiative

In academic year 2000-2001, four assistant professors were hired to start a Cognitive Studies Program at NIU. They are Giovanni Bennardo in Anthropology, Reva Freedman in Computer Science, Betty Birner in English (Linguistics), and Katja Wiemer-Hastings in Psychology. The four members of the group were given the task to prepare and implement a cognitive studies program.

First, they prepared a new class that could provide an entry into the program for undergraduate students. This class, ILAS 261 *Language, Mind, and Thought* is also listed as a General Education class. Now, this class is offered every fall semester and co-taught by two members of the group in rotation. Second, the group prepared a Cognitive Studies minor has now been offered since academic year 2005-2006. Soon, an interdisciplinary center for Cognitive Studies will be founded within which scholars (within NIU and across campuses worldwide) and students will exchange experiences and collaborate on new research projects.

NIU Anthropology Statement of Ethical Conduct

The NIU Department of Anthropology expects and requires ethical conduct from faculty, staff and students. This includes, but is not limited to, the following areas.

Sexual Misconduct

Sexual misconduct under the university's policy includes sexual or gender harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Consistent with Title IX legislation, NIU prohibits all students, faculty and staff from engaging in sexual misconduct.

For more information: <https://www.niu.edu/ethics-compliance/title-ix/index.shtml>.

Discrimination

In accordance with applicable statutes and regulations, NIU is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, religion, age, physical and mental disability, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, political affiliation, or any other factor unrelated to professional qualifications, and will comply with all applicable federal and state statutes, regulations and orders pertaining to nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action. For further information or to report any incidents, please visit the [Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity](#) website.

Ethical Conduct in Research

NIU strives for the highest level of research integrity. This requires students to hold to a high ethical standard for conducting research, which may include adhering to standards of National and International Anthropological Associations, such as the [American Anthropological Association](#), the [American Association of Biological Anthropologists](#), the [International Primatological Society](#), and the [Society for American Archaeology](#). If research misconduct is suspected it is important to report the event to the [NIU Office of Research Compliance, Integrity and Safety](#).

Responsible authorship is necessary to academic integrity. Because NIU faculty and students work together to produce original research, expectations and obligations with regards to authorship should be discussed as part of the research endeavor to ensure scholarly integrity and the responsible conduct and reporting of research. Scholarly publications include (and are not limited to) books, articles, abstracts, presentations at professional meetings, and grant applications. Faculty and students are encouraged to follow professional standards in Anthropology, but generally there are three conditions that typically qualify a participant in research to be eligible for authorship according to the [Authorship Policy](#) in the NIU Policy Library:

1. Substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data;
2. Drafting or revising the article or contributing critically important intellectual content to the article; and
3. Final approval of the version to be published.

Any researcher that has satisfied the first and second conditions must be given the opportunity to approve the version to be published and must have the opportunity to be included as an author.

Land Acknowledgement

Northern Illinois University occupies the traditional homelands of Anishinaabe peoples, also known as the Council of the Three Fires. Other Indigenous peoples who call this land home include the Sac and Fox, Kickapoo, Peoria, Miami, and Sioux. We acknowledge the presence and continued vitality of these and other Native communities in our state and Midwest region.

Inclusive Excellence in Anthropology

We recognize the legacies of colonialism, racism and white supremacy in the history and development of the discipline of anthropology. We pledge to reckon diligently and continually with that history in our efforts to decolonize teaching, research, museum collections, field sites and mentorship; to recruit faculty, staff and graduate students with the intent of further diversifying our department community; and to continue to develop anti-racist pedagogy that affirms our diverse students who have the power to enact change in our field and in the world. As scholars, activists, and educators, we declare our long-term commitment to advancing social justice and demanding action against power relations that result in oppression in our department, institutions, organizations and communities.