

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

## DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM IN ANTHROPOLOGY & PUBLIC HEALTH

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### ANTHROPOLOGY & PUBLIC HEALTH

have common and complementary interests. The two disciplines' practitioners can collaborate on community-based interventions, service delivery, and policy work in government, NGOs, and/or international organizations.

Combined training in anthropology and public health broadens the skill set and knowledge of professionals produced by such training.

**PUBLIC HEALTH** is concerned with:

- patterns of health and disease among groups
- what influences those patterns
- how those patterns change through action

**Public health** practitioners use epidemiological data to document population health trends. **Public health education and promotion specialists** are trained in community assessment, intervention planning and design, and program evaluation.



#### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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**ANTHROPOLOGY** is concerned with:

- human beings, past and present
- biological and cultural diversity
- interactions of people within the eco-cultural contexts

**Anthropologists** are skilled in successful engagement with communities. **Medical anthropologists** apply their skills to explore the biological, material, and sociocultural circumstances that bear on health.



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**The University of Alabama** offers two options for dual training – an MA/MPH and a PhD/MPH. Our programs blend excellent graduate education in biocultural medical anthropology with rigorous, applied preparation in public health education and promotion. We produce graduates versed in assessment of and engagement with health as a biocultural phenomenon, and trained to engage multiple levels of the social ecology of health.

## A. Application and Admission

### *MA/MPH Program*

#### Admissions criteria

All applicants to the dual master's program must meet the following guidelines:

- GPA of at least 3.0 in the last 60 semester hours of an undergraduate degree program
- Completion of the GRE if the GPA is below 3.0
- Statement of Purpose
- Resume or CV
- Three letters of recommendation

Applicants must successfully complete the admissions process for both programs. Each department's admission committee will thoroughly review applicant transcripts to ensure that undergraduate course content and performance indicate the potential to pursue two advanced degrees successfully in a compressed time frame.

#### Procedures

- Applicants will indicate interest in the dual degree program in the notes section of the application and in their Statement of Purpose. Students who develop an interest in the dual degree program after matriculation will formally apply and go through the admissions process for the second department.
- Applicants will identify a departmental 'home' (anthropology or health science) in their Statement of Purpose.
- Departments will review applications separately. If the review decisions are the same (accept or reject):
  - The 'home' department will notify applicants of their status
- If the review decisions are not the same, the departments will convene a meeting (virtual or in person) to review files of applicants whose status is in dispute
  - If the parties cannot agree on applicant status, the departments will notify applicants separately of their decisions
  - Departments will track the number of disputed applications and will use this tracking as a basis for periodic review of admissions decisions and student performance in the program.

## ***PhD/MPH Program***

### Admissions criteria

All applicants for the PhD/MPH dual degree dual degree program must meet the following guidelines:

- Completion of a master's degree in a related discipline from an accredited University
- Minimum 3.0 GPA
- Statement of Purpose
- Resume or CV
- Three letters of recommendation

Applicants must complete the admissions process for both programs. Each department's admission committee will thoroughly review applicant transcripts to insure that undergraduate course content and performance indicate the potential to pursue two advanced degrees successfully in a compressed time frame.

### Procedures

- Applicants will indicate interest in the dual degree program in the notes section of the application and in their Statement of Purpose. Students who develop an interest in the dual degree program after matriculation will need to formally apply and go through the admissions process for the second department.
- Applicants will identify a departmental 'home' (anthropology or health science) in their Statement of Purpose.
- Applicants will identify a faculty mentor, who must then agree to take the student on as a mentee.
- Departments will review applications separately. If the review decisions are the same (accept or reject):
  - The 'home' department will notify the applicant of her/his status
- If the review decisions are not the same, the departments will convene a meeting (virtual or in person) to review files of applicants whose status is in dispute
  - If the parties cannot agree on applicant status, the departments will notify the applicant separately of their decision
  - Departments will track the number of disputed applications and will use this tracking as a basis for periodic review of admissions decisions and subsequent student performance.

## **B. Scholastic Requirements – MA/MPH**

### **1. Prerequisites (both programs)**

Bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university. In addition, each department admissions committee will examine transcripts to ascertain that applicants have completed sufficient and relevant social science coursework. Performance in social science courses must indicate capacity to be successful in a dual degree master's program.

### **2. Program Requirements:**

- a. **MA only** - With strong training in research methods, application, and theory, the anthropology department MA program is appropriate both for students intending to continue to the PhD, and for those who will enter careers that require only the master's. The MA program employs a four-field approach, embracing archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistics, and cultural anthropology. Each student must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours. All students are required to complete satisfactorily a core curriculum composed of one graduate course in at least three of the four fields of anthropology. A seminar in research methodology is also required. (<https://anthropology.ua.edu/>)
- b. **MPH only** - the 42 credit hour MPH program provides a high quality, student-oriented, and health equity focused curriculum developed to deliver core public health competencies that emphasize the application of health education & promotion. Designed for eventual Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation, the curriculum offers education in the foundational areas of public health (health behavior, environmental health, epidemiology, biostatistics, and health services administration). It trains health promotion professionals to plan, implement, and evaluate programs to promote individual and population-based health. (<http://www.health.ches.ua.edu/>)
3. Dual-degree completion requirements:  
Students enrolled in the dual degree program must complete the minimum required credit hours for both programs. After review of the curricula and syllabi, the partner departments have identified 12 hours of course work in anthropology that may count toward both degrees, given the equivalent content and rigor:
- ANT 600 Research Methods (3 credit hours) may substitute for HHE 506 Techniques of Research in Health (3 credit hours).
  - ANT 502 Health Inequalities (3 credit hours) may substitute for HHE 587 Health Disparities (3 credit hours).

The Anthropology Department reciprocates this acceptance. The Health Science courses named above (HHE 506 and HHE 587) may substitute for their identified anthropology counterparts (ANT 600 and ANT 502, respectively) in the curricular plans of public health students pursuing a master's degree in anthropology. Additionally:

- Two of the following ANT Electives may substitute for two HHE Electives. These electives supply theoretical, methodological, or content expertise beneficial to either discipline. All have a health focus.
  - ANT 505 Culture, Mind, and Behavior
  - ANT 511 Culture, Health and Healing
  - ANT 550 Legal Anthropology
  - ANT 574 Neuroanthropology

All courses are 3 credit hours.

4. Transfer of credit:  
No transfer of credit is permitted.
5. Course of study:
  - a. See attached curriculum guides (thesis/non-thesis; GTA/non-GTA).
6. Comprehensive examinations/capstone experiences:
  - a. MA capstone experience – thesis students complete a research proposal and integrative essay at the end of their first year. Non-thesis students complete an integrative essay at the end of their first year.
  - b. MPH comprehensive exams – Students are required to pass a comprehensive examination that insures firm grounding in public health foundations and the essential elements of health promotion practice.
7. Time limit to complete the degrees:  
MA/MPH: 6 years
8. Timing of degree conferral:  
Degrees are conferred simultaneously; that is, no degree is conferred until all required work for both degrees is completed.
9. Pursuit of dual degree terminated:  
If a student decides to discontinue work towards one degree but to continue pursuit of the other, they must meet all customary requirements for the continued program, with no double counting of courses, to receive a degree.
10. Proposed implementation semester:  
Spring 2020
11. Other requirements or considerations:  
Student financial support: It is the policy of the Anthropology Department to provide financial support to its graduate students. The department feels this support is critical to student success, given the nature of the course content and the expectation that most student learning will be at the application and problem-solving level. The Department of Health Science primarily awards graduate assistantships to doctoral students, although MPH students may be considered. In the current year, three MPH students received graduate assistantships.

### **C. Scholastic Requirements – PhD/MPH program**

1. Pre-requisites: PhD  
Master’s degree in a related field from an accredited college or University. In addition, the each department admissions committee will examine transcripts to ascertain that applicants have completed sufficient social science coursework, and performed sufficiently well in that coursework, to be successful in a dual graduate degree program.

Pre-requisites: MPH

Bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university. In addition, each department admissions committee will examine transcripts to ascertain that applicants have completed sufficient and relevant social science coursework. Performance in social science courses must indicate capacity to be successful in a dual degree master's program.

2. Program Requirements:

- a. **PhD only** - Biocultural medical anthropology, a specific approach within the more general subfield of medical anthropology, strives to understand why people grow and develop as they do and why they may be at risk for health problems. It is part of the largest and fastest-growing subfield within anthropology and is increasingly relevant to research and training across a number of areas, from applied health science and transcultural psychiatry to epidemiology and community health development. Biocultural medical anthropologists attempt to use research findings for the benefit of communities as well as care providers. The degree requires that applicants experience substantial ethnographic fieldwork.
- b. **MPH only** - the 42 credit hour MPH program provides a high quality, student-oriented, and health equity focused curriculum developed to deliver core public health competencies that emphasize applied health education & promotion. Designed for eventual Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation, the curriculum offers education in the foundational areas of public health (health behavior, environmental health, epidemiology, biostatistics, and health services administration), and is tailored to train health promotion professionals to plan, implement, and evaluate programs to promote individual and population health.

3. Dual-degree completion requirements:

Students enrolled in the dual degree program must complete the minimum required credit hours for both programs. After review of the curricula and syllabi, the partner departments have identified 12 hours of course work in anthropology that may count toward both degrees, given their equivalent content and rigor:

- ANT 600 Research Methods (3 credit hours) may substitute for HHE 506 Techniques of Research in Health (3 credit hours).
- ANT 502 Health Inequalities (3 credit hours) may substitute for HHE 587 Health Disparities (3 credit hours).

The Anthropology Department reciprocates this acceptance. The Health Science courses named above (HHE 506 and HHE 587) may substitute for their identified anthropology counterparts (ANT 600 and ANT 502, respectively) in the curricular plans of public health students pursuing a master's degree in anthropology. Additionally:

- Two of the following ANT Electives may substitute for two HHE Electives. These electives supply theoretical, methodological, or content expertise beneficial to either discipline. All have a health focus.
  - ANT 505 Culture, Mind, and Behavior
  - ANT 511 Culture, Health and Healing
  - ANT 550 Legal Anthropology
  - ANT 574 Neuroanthropology

All courses are 3 credit hours.

4. Transfer of credit:

No transfer of credit is permitted.

5. Course of study

PhD/MPH curriculum plans are tailored to each student's needs. Upon matriculation, admitted students will meet with their mentors in both programs to design a personalized program of study. Students enrolled in the anthropology doctoral program will complete the required coursework for their doctoral degree before beginning their MPH course work. Doctoral students will likely complete their MPH coursework online once they are in the field or in the write-up stage of their dissertation.

6. Comprehensive examinations/capstone experiences:

- a. Fieldwork and dissertation – Substantial ethnographic fieldwork and a dissertation are required for a doctoral degree in the anthropology department
- b. MPH comprehensive exams – Students are required to pass a comprehensive examination that addresses content from the required courses.

7. Time limit to complete the degrees:

PhD/MPH: 9 years

8. Timing of degree conferral:

Degrees are conferred simultaneously; that is, no degree will be conferred until all required work for both degrees is completed.

9. Pursuit of dual degree terminated:

If a student decides to discontinue work towards one degree but to continue pursuit of the other, he/she must meet all customary requirements for the continued program, with no double counting of courses, to receive a degree.

10. Proposed implementation semester:

Spring 2020

11. Other requirements or considerations:

Student financial support: It is the policy of the anthropology department to provide financial support to its graduate students. The department feels this support is critical to student success, given the nature of the course content and the expectation that most student learning will be at the application and problem-solving level.

#### **D. Evaluation**

1. MPH Program (see attached assessment materials)
2. Anthropology Program (see attached assessment materials)

In addition to the respective competencies and goals of the component programs, students completing the dual degree programs will exhibit the added capabilities listed below. These reflect their dual preparation. Each of these capabilities connects to at least one learning outcome in the Health Science and Anthropology programs respectively. The learning outcomes are identified in parentheses after each capability.

Graduates of the dual degree programs in Anthropology and Health Science will exhibit the ability to:

- a. Synthesize literature from multiple disciplines to acquire a holistic view of a given health concern and identify knowledge gaps. (Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health/Research Proposal)
- b. Develop a literature-informed research question and design a project to investigate that question (Evidence-Based Approaches to Public Health/Research Proposal).
- c. Continuously cultivate knowledge of the historical, social and political circumstances informing identified health issues. (Systems thinking/Human Diversity)
- d. Develop and maintain partnerships based on mutual respect and trust within the populations who are the target of their efforts (Communication/Human Diversity).
- e. Identify and collaborate with community and professional partners in understanding health problems from a local perspective, in designing and implementing interventions, and in disseminating the results of those interventions (Interprofessional Practice/Research Design).



**MA/MPH curricular template  
(thesis track, GTA)**

	<u>ANT</u>	<u>HHE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Year 1</u>			
<i>Semester 1: Fall</i>			
ANT 641 Culture	3		
ANT 670 Principles of Biological Anthropology	3		
ANT 600 Research Methods (replaces HHE 506)	3		
<i>Semester 2: Spring</i>			
ANT 501 Linguistics	3		
ANT 575 Biology, Culture, and Evolution*	3		
HHE 512 Advanced Foundations of Public Health		3	
<i>Summer</i>			
HHE 565 Planning Health Promotion Programs		3	
<b>Year one total credits</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>
<u>Year 2</u>			
<i>Semester 3: Fall</i>			
HHE 521 Basic Epidemiology		3	
HHE 515 Advanced Foundations of Health Promotion		3	
HHE 526 Biostatistics		3	
<i>Semester 4: Spring</i>			
ANT 502 Health Inequalities (replaces HHE 587)	3		
ANT Elective	3		
HHE 520 Theories of Health Behavior		3	
<i>Summer</i>			
HHE 603 Community-based Participatory Research (summer thesis)*		3	
<b>Year two total credits</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total program credits</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>42</b>

Year 3

*Semester 5: Fall*

HHE 566 Program Evaluation in Health Promotion  
HHE 586 Environmental Health Promotion  
ANT 599/HHE 599 Thesis Research

ANT   HHE   TOTAL

3  
3  
3   3

*Semester 6: Spring*

ANT 599/HHE 599 Thesis Research  
HHE/ANT Elective\*\*  
HHE/ANT Elective

3   3  
3   3  
3

**Year three total credits**

**9   15   24**

**Total program credits**

**30   33   63**

\*Could take 1st or 2nd year

\*\* Electives available through either program – double count

Anthropology Electives

ANT 511 Culture, Health and Healing\*\*  
ANT 574 Neuroanthropology  
ANT 505 Culture, Mind, and Behavior\*\*  
ANT 550 Legal Anthropology

## MA/MPH (non-thesis track, GTA) curricular template

<u>Year 1</u>	<u>ANT</u>	<u>HHE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<i>Semester 1: Fall</i>			
ANT 641 Culture	3		
ANT 670 Principles of Biological Anthropology	3		
ANT 600 Research Methods (replaces HHE 506)	3		
<i>Semester 2: Spring</i>			
ANT 501 Linguistics	3		
ANT 575 Biology, Culture and Evolution*	3		
HHE 512 Advanced Foundations of Public Health		3	
<i>Summer</i>			
HHE 565 Planning Health Promotion Programs		3	
<b>Year one total credits (running)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>
<u>Year 2</u>			
<i>Semester 3: Fall</i>			
HHE 521 Basic Epidemiology		3	
HHE 515 Advanced Foundations of Health Promotion		3	
HHE 526 Biostatistics		3	
<i>Semester 4: Spring</i>			
ANT 502 Health Inequalities (replaces HHE 587)	3		
ANT Elective	3		
HHE 520 Theories of Health Behavior		3	
<i>Summer</i>			
HHE 603 Community-Based Participatory Research		3	
<b>Year two total credits</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total program credits (running)</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>42</b>
<u>Year 3</u>			
<i>Semester 5: Fall</i>			
HHE 566 Program Evaluation in Health Promotion		3	
HHE 586 Environmental Health Promotion		3	
ANT Elective	3		
<i>Semester 6: Spring</i>			
ANT/HHE Elective**	3	3	
HHE Elective		3	

ANT Elective	3		
<b>Year three program credits</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total program credits</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>63</b>

\*\* Electives available through either program – double count

Anthropology Electives

ANT 511 Culture, Health and Healing\*\*

ANT 574 Neuroanthropology

ANT 505 Culture, Mind, and Behavior\*\*

ANT 550 Legal Anthropology