

M.A. Track in Applied Archaeology in the School of Anthropology

Program Description

The School of Anthropology at the University of Arizona now offers a Master's Degree with a track in Applied Archaeology. Applied Archaeology is an emerging field of study within Anthropology that creates and uses knowledge in the context of application. These applications include collecting information about archaeological sites for use in cultural resources management, recovering archaeological data from threatened sites to mitigate the adverse effects of land modifying projects, managing historic properties to comply with historic preservation legislation, assisting Indigenous groups with identification of traditional cultural properties and heritage management, and creating a sustainable cultural environment by using the tools of preservation archaeology. All of these applications produce knowledge that is significant in the discipline of Anthropology.

The M.A. in Applied Archaeology at the University of Arizona is a rigorous two-year academic program designed to teach the subject matter and professional skills needed for a successful career working for businesses, governmental agencies, tribes, and non-profit organizations that employ applied archaeologists. The carefully designed curriculum includes classroom instruction in anthropological method and theory, laboratory training in specialized analytical techniques, coursework to establish expertise in an archaeological region, and an internship to develop professional skills. The University of Arizona is situated in one of the densest areas of applied archaeologists in the country and our program will integrate professionals working in the private, public, and non-profit sectors of archaeology. The University of Arizona maintains high academic standards, and graduates of the M.A. in Anthropology with an Applied Archaeology Track will receive the education they need for an intellectually and professionally satisfying career.

All students in the proposed M.A. track will take the regular classes required of archaeology graduate students, along with several other required and elective courses. A thesis or paper will be required, along with an internship. Completion of this program will qualify graduates to apply for registration in the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA), and meet the professional standards required by the Department of Interior and other state and federal agencies for supervisory archaeologists. Students applying for the Applied Archaeology Track will not normally be provided any Teaching Assistantship funding or graduate tuition waivers but are eligible for Research Assistantship funding if available.

Required Classes	Number of Units
ANTH 636 – Foundations of Archaeological Interpretation	3
ANTH 637 – Archaeological Methodology	3
ANTH 608B – History of Anthropological Theory	3
ANTH 540A – Cultural Resource Management	3
ANTH 562 – Archaeological Quantitative Methods	3
ANTH 595A – Professional Skills and Ethics	3
NEW COURSE – Ethnography for Historic Preservation	3
Elective in North American Prehistory (1)	3
Elective in Laboratory Methods (2)	6

Elective in Historical Archaeology (1)	3
ANTH 593 - Summer Internship	3
ANTH 909 or 910 - Master's Paper or Thesis	3
Total Units	39

Elective Areas	Courses Potentially Fulfilling Elective
North American Archaeology	ANTH 518 - Southwest Land and Society ANTH 547 - Anasazi Archaeology ANTH 551A - Archaeology of Eastern North America ANTH 552R - Southwest Archaeology ANTH 561 - Paleoindian Origins ANTH 696A - Anthropology of Native North America ANTH 696A - Southwest Borderlands Archaeology Seminar
Laboratory Methods	ANTH 505A - Introduction to Archaeological Conservation ANTH 512A - Geoarchaeology ANTH 514 - Quaternary Geology ANTH 539A - Introduction to Dendrochronology ANTH 568 - Human Osteology ANTH 569 - Ethnobotany ANTH 572 - Zooarchaeology and Taphonomy Lab ANTH 574 - Archaeometry ANTH 596f - Ceramic Analysis (Practicum or Seminar) ANTH 596h - Experimental Archaeology RNR 517 - GIS for Natural and Social Sciences ANTH 696A - Lithic Analysis ANTH 696A - Quantitative Zooarchaeology
Historical Archaeology	ANTH 558 - Historical Archaeology ANTH 638 - Culture Contact and Colonialism ANTH 696A - Material Culture in Historical Archaeology
Special Topics	LAW/ANTH 595k - American Indians, Anthropology, and the Law ANTH 595A - Archaeology Special Topics ANTH 696A - Archaeology Seminar

Students must have already taken an archaeological field school or have several months of archaeological field experience upon application to the program. If this requirement has not been met, then the student must complete a formal archaeological field school or equivalent the summer before entering the program or following the first year of graduate studies. This is in addition to the internship requirement. Since this may delay graduation, it is strongly urged that students interested in the M.A. in Applied Archaeology complete a field school or have field experience minimally at the field crew level before they enter the program.

The required internship experience can be field or lab based and will be tailored to students' career goals. Generally, this should involve more advanced fieldwork at a supervisory level, but if the student has special interests in laboratory or project management aspects of applied archaeology a non-field based internship may be more appropriate. A consortium of applied archaeologists in southern Arizona, especially the Tucson area, will be created. Many of these archaeologists regularly participate in the CRM class already and have indicated a willingness to work with the School in training applied

archaeologists. The University of Arizona is fortunate to have such a dense concentration of applied archaeologists in the area, including many of our own graduates.

Sample Curriculum

Year 1: Fall

ANTH 636

ANTH 540A

Preservation

Prehistory, Lab, or Historic Arch Elective

Year 1: Spring

ANTH 637

ANTH XXX Ethnography for Historic

Statistics or 608B

Year 2: Fall

ANTH 595A

(2)Prehistory, Lab, or Hist Arch Electives

Year 2: Spring

Statistics or 608B

Prehistory, Lab, or Historic Arch Elective

ANTH 909 or 910

The above sample curriculum assumes 3 courses/9 units per semester. Students may take fewer courses per semester and take longer to graduate. In fact, we anticipate that there may be demand for this track by archaeologists already working in the Tucson area. Students may also take more classes but no more than 12 units per semester is recommended.

The same application materials are required of applied archaeology applicants as for those applying to our graduate program (transcripts, GRE, letters of recommendation, and a statement of purpose) but we also require submission of CVs (currently optional for the Ph.D. program). Students applying to this track should be sure to check both "Archaeology" as major field of interest, the M.A. degree, and "Applied Archaeology (M.A. only). The criteria for admission are similar to those for our other graduate students in that we wish to attract excellent students. If a student is interested in continuing on for the Ph.D. program a new application process must be initiated and the student will be re-renewed. We particularly look at for students with a commitment to pursuing applied archaeology as indicated in their statement of purpose, writing skills, and prior archaeological fieldwork, laboratory experience, and coursework. The deadline for applying to the applied archaeology M.A. track is for admission in Fall 2010 is March 1st. Notification of acceptance will be by April 15th.