

MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (PHD)

Visit program website. (<https://humsci.ucsf.edu/medical-anthropology/>)

Degree Offered: PhD

Program Leadership:

Ian Whitmarsh, PhD, Program Director

Admissions Inquiries:

Bonita Dyess, Program Manager

Program Description

The joint UCSF/UC Berkeley PhD in Medical Anthropology is one of the pioneering programs in the discipline both nationally and globally. The program brings together one of the finest medical universities and one of the finest arts and sciences universities in the country to offer students a theoretically engaged approach to emerging issues in medical anthropology. No other program offers the joint program's combination of excellence in critical medical anthropology; studies of science, technology, and modernity; and training in historically informed, pedagogically rigorous social theory.

Students in the program are trained to develop original, creative, and relevant scholarship that contributes to both medical science and social science fields. The program emphasizes the ways social theory can be used to analyze urgent issues in contemporary health. These include: how populations are predisposed for care or violence; how markets structure health and the provision of aid; and differences in how life, ethics, and personhood are constituted.

The program also offers a unique opportunity for dual degree students through the Medical Anthropology MD/PhD track, which includes the Medical Sciences Training Program (<https://mstp.ucsf.edu/>). This track graduates physician scholars able to contribute to anthropological scholarship, medical science, and clinical care.

Faculty

On the UCSF campus, the program has ten core faculty and 34 affiliated faculty from UCSF's Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as UC Berkeley and UC Merced.

Thematic Areas

- Critical global health
- Critical race theory
- Structural competency
- Reproductive justice
- Social studies of science and technology
- Addiction and inequity
- Built environment and management of urban poverty
- Social dynamics of disaster and recovery
- Chemical harm and social accountability
- Decolonizing medicine and health sciences

The Medical Anthropology program office at UCSF is located at the Mission Bay campus. Visit the program website (<https://humsci.ucsf.edu/medical-anthropology/>) for more information.

Admission Requirements

BA or BS in Anthropology or related field.

Learning Outcomes

- Deep understanding of the major theoretical approaches in medical anthropology.
- Knowledge of and ability to use ethnographic methods.
- Ability to design, conduct, and analyze independent anthropological research.
- Facility with fundamentals of medical anthropological analysis and interpretation.

Additional Information

Program Core Faculty

- Find a program faculty list (<https://humsci.ucsf.edu/medical-anthropology/>) on the program website.

Career Outcomes

- Find career outcomes and other data on PhD programs (<https://graduate.ucsf.edu/program-statistics/#career>) on the Graduate Division website.

Degree Requirements

- Two years of required and elective courses
- Prequalifying exam
- Foreign language requirement
- Statistics requirement
- Qualifying exam based on two field statements and a research proposal
- One year of independent doctoral fieldwork research
- Dissertation based on fieldwork research
- Department presentation of dissertation findings
- Completion and submission of the dissertation

Core Courses

Course	Title	Units
Year 1		
ANTHROPOL 205A	Intro to Sociocultural Theory	4
ANTHROPOL 205B	Introduction to Sociocultural Theory	4
ANTHROPOL 211A	Research Training Seminar	4
ANTHRO 240A and 240B at UCB		6
Units		18
Year 2		
ANTHROPOL 211B	Research Training Seminar	8-10
ANTHROPOL 211C	Research Training Seminar	6-8
Units		14-18
Year 3 and Beyond		
Some of these classes are required and some are electives: ¹		
ANTHROPOL 200	Off-Campus Study	0
ANTHROPOL 225	Contemporary Issues	2-4
ANTHROPOL 249	Directed Reading	2
ANTHROPOL 250	Research	5
ANTHROPOL 297	Special Study	1-5
ANTHROPOL 299	Dissertation	0
Units		10-16
Total Units		42-52

¹ All students take electives at UCB, which are different for every student, depending upon their particular focus area.

Non-course Core Requirements

Attendance and participation in seminar series.

See Degree Requirements above.