

Doctor of Education in Anthropology and Education (Ed.D.)

Brief Program Description —The program in Anthropology and Education’s disciplinary approach explores and contributes to better understanding of educational processes in schools and classrooms, institutions of higher education, and community organizations. This degree is designed for students who plan to engage in policy development and administrative responsibilities in school systems, colleges, universities, professional schools, research institutes, or state, federal, and international agencies and bureaus, as well as scholarly research and writing, applied research, evaluation, and teaching. The Ed.D. degree is awarded by Teachers College, Columbia University.

Minimum Point Requirement — The degree requires a minimum of 75 points of acceptable graduate credit, 45 points of which must be completed through Teachers College registration. These credits may be earned by course work, independent study, and guided research. The following breakdown illustrates acceptable course:

Major Courses (42 points)

These courses prepare students with the requisite knowledge of the epistemological, theoretical, methodological, and substantive areas of anthropology. These courses aim to develop competency in the discipline while addressing the specific intellectual interests of the student.

Research Methods and Statistical Courses (9 points)

These courses provide a thorough grounding in the study and practice of anthropological and ethnographic research methods as well as competency in related methods of statistical analysis.

Broad and Basic Area Courses (12 points)

These courses focus on educational institutions, teaching and communication, persons and the learning process, and various forms of measurement and evaluation in cognate areas which prepare graduates to work with the knowledge and skills necessary for researching and working in a variety of formal and non-formal educational settings.

Electives (12 points)

Additional courses can be taken to increase competence in comparative, regional or international studies, or to enhance technical skills used in conjunction with but outside of the major course of study. At least three of these courses (8-9 points) must be taken in fields foundational to anthropology (economics, history, linguistics, philosophy, psychology, sociology).

Required Courses — The only specifically required courses for the Ed.D. in Anthropology and Education are the two, year-long colloquium courses (ITSF 5610 and ITSF 5611). All other courses offered by the department are considered “core courses” and can be used to fulfill the core course requirements.

- ITSF 5610 (*First Year Colloquium in Applied Anthropology*) – Two-semester sequence to be taken during the student’s first year. B is the passing grade.
- ITSF 5611 (*Second Year Colloquium in Anthropological Method*) – Two-semester sequence to be taken during the student’s second year. B is the passing grade.

- Ten to twelve weeks of summer field research to be carried out at the end of the student's first year. Up to 6 points in ITSF 6910 Studies in Anthropology and Education may be earned for this research.
- Two ethnographic area courses. An "area" may be a geographic region as well as a substantial population with self-identifying members such as ethnic, gendered, and racialized groups, subcultures, professions, and transnational populations. One geographic regional ethnographic course must be taken from outside the student's main area of ethnographic interest; the other area course should be from within the student's area of specialization. If no area course focused within a student's primary area of interest is offered during the period of coursework, students will need to arrange an independent study focused on this area.
- One research paper on a topic of particular relevance to the student's dissertation interests or of particular significance in demonstrating the student's research skills. This paper can be based on the field research carried out at the end of the first year. The topic of the paper and the paper itself must be approved by two members of the faculty.
- The student must sit and pass three advanced examinations on topics relevant to his/her dissertation research.

Grade requirements --- An overall B+ average is expected. At least two-thirds of all credits taken through Teachers College prior to certification must be taken for an evaluative letter grade. Grades below B in any course taken through Teachers College will not be regarded as showing the above competence.

Course, Examination, and Dissertation Advisement

Advising at TC can seem a bit confusing because there are occasions in a doctoral student's career that may or may not involve different faculty members in the advisor role: a *preliminary* advisor, an *exam* advisor, and a *dissertation* advisor (formerly called "sponsor.") In addition, students may change advisors at other times, if this seems appropriate, given the student's changing interests.

In accordance with TC policy, all students are assigned a randomly selected preliminary advisor prior to arrival to assist with coursework planning and other matters. In addition, each student meets with the assembled faculty two or three times a year—at registration and at the ends of the first and second years. Students are expected to talk about their interests and plans with all members of the faculty.

By the end of the first semester of the second year, or after they have completed a third of the total required courses, students are required to ask one of the program faculty members to advise them on the organization of their examinations and preparation of the dissertation proposal, and other matters related to the dissertation process. The faculty member should be chosen based on his or her theoretical, methodological, or area expertise. Often this faculty member becomes the advisor of the dissertation.

As their interests change, students may decide to ask a different faculty member to serve as advisor. This process is relatively informal in the initial stages. By the time the proposal has been accepted and a sponsor has signed on the dissertation, changing this sponsor requires that a formal request be made to the Program Director, Department Chair, and ODS so that all involved are made aware of the change.

Comprehensive Exam —All doctoral students must pass the Advanced Certification Exam. It consists of three written examinations whose precise scope is approved by the major advisor or advisors and an oral examination which includes follow-up questions on the written exams. It is closely followed by passage of the dissertation prospectus.

These proctored examinations are administered live in one of the Program's offices unless special arrangements have been made through the Office of Access and Services for Individuals with Disabilities.

Typically, one written examination focuses on the ethnographic world region or specific population most relevant to the student's dissertation project; a second focuses on the theoretical perspectives most relevant to the proposed dissertation research; and the third focuses on anthropology and education.

The purpose of these examinations is to test the student's proficiency with key concepts and issues in anthropology as well as mastery of basic professional literature in the chosen areas of specialization. Certification shows that the student has attained competencies outlined in the course requirements as well as the methodological, arial, and topical knowledge necessary to conduct their proposed research and meet expectations of anthropological professionalism.

Each written examination is prepared and graded by two examiners, based upon bibliographies the student prepares in collaboration with the examiners, who, along with the student's advisor, must approve the final lists. Upon successful completion of the three written examinations, an oral examination is given (typically immediately preceding the dissertation proposal hearing — see next section). The student must pass the oral examination satisfactorily to advance to the dissertation proposal hearing.

Exam Preparation and Scheduling:

1. Exams are best taken in the third year, even before all courses have been taken.
2. The Advisor for the exams must be a member of the core faculty of the Programs in Anthropology.
3. Assembly of bibliographies for the exams **MUST** start no later than early in the semester before the student plans to take the exam and minimally 6 months prior to the month of the exams. Ideally, students will begin assembling preliminary lists as soon as they enter the program, drawing on their coursework and independent reading.
4. Bibliography length is flexible within a range of 50 to 75 items. The final draft of each bibliography should include a brief statement (200 words) summarizing the main issues the exam addresses, as well as 5 questions that the bibliographies help to answer.
5. In initial meetings with the advisor 4-6 the exam readers will be selected. Readers must be approved by the advisor. At least 2 of the 6 readers must be members of the core faculty of the Programs in Anthropology. The other readers may come from the Program, elsewhere at TC, CU, or other institutions.
6. One of each pair of readers is designated First Reader. First Readers must be specialists in the topics focal to the exam and Second Readers must be conversant with those topics.
7. Students are expected to draft bibliographies in consultation with the readers in time for

the readers and the student's advisor to approve the bibliographies by the end of the semester prior to the exam.

8. While students are drafting bibliographies, they should also start choosing dates for each of their exams. This must be scheduled with the Anthropology Program Assistant. Note that exams are not scheduled in the summer.
9. The final drafts of each bibliography should be officially approved no later than 3 months prior to the student's exams. This means that bibliographies for Fall semester exams must be approved by the end of the Spring semester in May and Spring exam lists no later than the end of November.
10. Once each draft is approved, the student will have their advisor and each reader sign the 'Final Approval of ACE Bibliographies' form and send it in to the Anthropology Program Assistant along with the ACE Scheduling Form that indicates the dates of the student's exams for the following semester.
11. The readers of exams may edit the questions the students will be asked to answer during the exam.

Dissertation Proposal —

1. Although the language exam is not required for the Ed.D., students should be sure they have adequate competence in any field language(s) necessary for the dissertation research they will propose. Grant applications now require evidence of this.
2. After passing the comprehensive exam, an oral examination is given on the student's proposal for field research. It is typically held immediately after the oral component of the certification examinations.
3. The student's advisor forms a committee of two to three members of the core faculty of the Program and the student's dissertation sponsor. If the sponsor is different from the advisor, they will assume the role of official advisor subsequent to passage of the proposal oral exam.
4. Candidates must pass both the written and oral part of the examination to be recommended for certification. In the term the Dissertation proposal defense oral is held, students must be registered for ITSF 7500.

Dissertation Field Research — One to two years of original anthropological field research is required in preparation for the writing of the dissertation. In each term this post-proposal dissertation field research is held, students must be registered for ITSF 6200. This course grants full-time status and meets the requirements of Obligation for Continuous Enrollment from ODS.

Dissertation-- After completing a period of field research, the student starts writing. This is best done in close contact with the sponsor who determines when drafts are ready to be circulated to other members of the committee. When the sponsor and at least one other committee member deem the dissertation ready, a defense is set. The membership of the final committee is discussed in consultation with the sponsor. The candidate is required to register for continuous dissertation advisement (ITSF 8900) until the dissertation has received final approval.

Transfer credit evaluation — Of the 75 points required for the degree, a minimum of 45 points must be completed at Teachers College, and a maximum of 30 points may be transferred or earned in graduate courses from other recognized graduate schools.

Transfer Credit Policy:

We encourage students to request for transfer credits as part of program planning. We regularly approve the transfer of credits even if the courses are not directly anthropological however, if the program faculty determine that transfer credits are not directly related to anthropology it must be clear that:

1. that all remaining 45 points must have been cleared by us as anthropological; and that
2. should problems surface at exam time, we might require extra classes beyond the minimum.

Additional Requirements

Along with the faculty report of the examination and proposal, students are required to complete a “Program Plan” of study utilizing the college Degree Audit system. For more information on this, please see the ODS website under the tab Degree Audit. Upon administrative review by ODS, the student will be requested to acquire recommendation for the Master of Philosophy from the department. After receiving approval from the department, ODS will finalize the process with GSAS which signals a change of status, particularly as it relates to the student’s relationship to Columbia University.

Continuous Registration

The student becomes obligated to register for continuous dissertation advisement (ITSF 8900) until the dissertation has received final approval. The fees can be waived through a variety of means for at least four semesters (e.g., by registering for ITSF 6200: Fieldwork Outside the United States; leaves of absence; etc.)