

ANTHROPOLOGY

Joint Degrees

Joint M.D. / Ph.D. with the College of Medicine

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-211 Joint Degree Programs (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-211-joint-degree-programs/>).

Admission Requirements

Prospective students interested in simultaneously pursuing a M.D. and Ph.D. degree must apply to the College of Medicine M.D. program using the national American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) application system and indicate their intent to pursue the joint-degree program. Admissions requirements and applications for admission for Penn State College of Medicine are available at the M.D. Program (<http://med.psu.edu/md>) section of the Penn State College of Medicine website. Applicants must also meet the admission requirements of the Fox Graduate School and the Ph.D. admission requirements listed on the Admission Requirements tab, however, the requirement for GRE scores is waived for students applying to the joint degree program.. The M.D./Ph.D. Admissions Committee reviews applications and evaluates candidates for acceptance into both the M.D. and Ph.D. programs. After the review committee has accepted an applicant to the joint degree program, s/he must apply to the Fox Graduate School (<http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/>) for admission to the graduate program. Applicants not accepted into the joint-degree program may be referred to either the M.D. or Ph.D. program, depending on their qualifications.

Applicants to this program generally have very strong grades and MCAT scores, as well as a strong and sustained background in research. Applicants must be able to clearly articulate reasons for pursuing the joint degree. Letters of recommendation from faculty who have advised the applicant in research and who can comment on the applicant's passion and potential for research are strongly encouraged.

Degree Requirements

Students must fulfill all requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the double-counting of credits outlined below. Degree requirements for the M.D. program are listed on the Penn State College of Medicine website (<http://www.med.psu.edu/web/md/home>). For students enrolled in the joint degree program, the requirement for ANTH 572 and ANTH 573 will be waived, and students will be required to complete 2 credits of ANTH 541 instead of 6. The College of Medicine will accept 8 credits of ANTH 600 in lieu of two months of elective rotations (MED 797). In addition, the College of Medicine waives the requirement for a Medical Student Research project for students in the M.D./Ph.D. program.

If students accepted into the joint degree program are unable to complete the M.D. degree, they are still eligible to receive the Ph.D. degree if all the Ph.D. degree requirements have been satisfied.

In addition to the requirements for the Ph.D. committee (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/gcac-602-phd-committee-formation/>) for a Ph.D. student in the ANTH Graduate Program, at least one member of the Ph.D. committee must be on the M.D./Ph.D. Steering Committee. This member may serve other roles on the Ph.D. committee.

M.D./Ph.D. students must complete 25 credits. Candidates for the M.D./Ph.D. in ANTH will take all of the core courses for the ANTH Ph.D., as well as electives chosen by the ANTH M.D./Ph.D. student in consultation with their primary mentor. In the first semester of the second year at UP, all students in the ANTH Ph.D. program are required to take ANTH 509, the research methods seminar. ANTH 508, Anthropological Data Analysis and Visualization, is also required for all ANTH Ph.D. students and may be taken at any point in the first two years. Students without suitable preparation in statistics may also be required to take a course at the 400 or 500 level at the advisor's discretion. At any point during the first two years, M.D./Ph.D. students may be required to take up to 6 additional credits of advanced seminars, as directed by their adviser. The M.D./Ph.D. students pursuing the ANTH Ph.D. are also required to enroll in a one-unit literature review seminar (ANTH 541) for one credit each semester during the first two semesters of study. In addition to taking the required core courses and the literature review course, six credits of elective courses may be required in consultation with the student's dissertation adviser and Ph.D. committee. Eight credits of ANTH 600 conducted over the four years of the graduate portion of the training program will be counted by the College of Medicine in lieu of two months of elective rotations (MED 797). The College of Medicine's requirement for a Medical Student Research project is also waived for all M.D./Ph.D. in ANTH candidates.

The Ph.D. committee of an M.D./Ph.D. student in ANTH will be formed upon successful passing of the ANTH qualifying examination and commencement of work under a primary mentor, no later than the end of the first semester of the second year of graduate study at UP. The committee must include at least two members of the ANTH graduate faculty and one member of the M.D./Ph.D. steering committee.

The comprehensive examination for ANTH M.D./Ph.D. students will follow the same guidelines as for Ph.D. students in ANTH, except that the comprehensive examination must be held before the end of the second academic year at UP. The M.D./Ph.D. student must write a dissertation proposal in preparation for the comprehensive exam, and a final version of the dissertation proposal must be circulated by the student to all committee members at least four weeks in advance of the comprehensive exam. The comprehensive examination for M.D./Ph.D. students will be an oral examination which may be open to the public. The examination will consist of student presentation of their dissertation proposal, followed by questions and discussion.

The dissertation requirements for ANTH Ph.D. and ANTH M.D./Ph.D. students are the same: All Ph.D. candidates must conduct original research and prepare a dissertation that makes a significant contribution of new knowledge, is presented in a scholarly manner, and demonstrates an ability on the part of the candidate to do independent research of high quality. The contents and conclusions of the dissertation must be defended at the time of the final oral examination.