

# RICE ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK: REQUIREMENTS, PRIVILEGES & EXPECTATIONS

\*Revised 23 February 2017

## I. REQUIREMENTS FOR PHD CANDIDACY AND ATTAINMENT OF THE PHD IN SOCIOCULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

### I. Required coursework.

(a) To complete sufficient graduate coursework for the PhD students are expected to be enrolled in a full load of coursework each semester (3 courses of 3 units each) for the first three years of their program. [Note: To maintain their stipend, students *must* be enrolled in at least 9 units of graduate study each semester in the program. To maintain their stipend, students must also enroll in ANTH 600 (6 units minimum) each summer prior to achieving candidacy, and ANTH 800 post-candidacy.] Once advanced to candidacy, all students should enroll in 9 hours of ANTH 800 each semester and during the summer through the completion of the Ph.D.

All of the requirements for PhD candidacy (and thus eligibility for an automatic M.A.), must be completed no later than the end of the eighth semester of enrollment in the program.

(b) Undergraduate courses, including language courses, cannot be utilized to satisfy graduate coursework.

(c) Sociocultural graduate students must take at least 4 courses within the Anthropology Department that are designated as 400/600 or 300/500 level courses (in addition to the 5 designated courses listed below).

Sociocultural graduate students must take the following 5 designated required courses:

ANTH 506 History of Anthropological Ideas

ANTH 507 Anthropological Directions from Second World War to the Present

ANTH 601 Proseminar/Ethnographic Research Methods

ANTH 602 Anthropology Proposal Writing Seminar

ANTH 650 Pedagogy (\*note: 18 hours of completed graduate credit hours are required in order to be eligible to take this course)

*Further details on ANTH 650:* Third year students will enroll in ANTH 650 (Pedagogy) in the semester it is being offered in conjunction with the Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology course (ANTH 201). Graduate students are expected to assist the instructor teaching ANTH 201 in matters of grading, lecturing, conducting review sessions according to the instructor's needs and direction. During the semester that students are enrolled in ANTH 650 they will also (a) attend a specialized pedagogy workshop curated by the Center for Teaching Excellence and (b) (For students matriculating in fall 2015 or later) develop an undergraduate syllabus on a topic of their choosing. The

instructor of ANTH 201 will provide feedback on the syllabus and when it is complete (and by the end of the semester at the latest) it should be submitted to the DGS for any further revision.

2. Prior to achieving candidacy, the successful completion of **end-of-year report**.

Students will write a 2-3 page (double-spaced) summary of their achievements for the year, any areas of improvement they identify and their plans for the summer and following year. This report is to be emailed to all sociocultural faculty by the second Sunday of April; a faculty panel will be assembled to discuss progress with each student, to be scheduled in advance and held at the end of the spring semester.

3. **Selection of a Candidacy Committee** by the end of spring semester of the student's second year in the program. At least two members of the 3-member candidacy committee must be regular faculty in the department (tenured or tenure-track). The candidacy committee is often composed entirely of regular faculty in the department.

4. **Submission of a Draft Grant Proposal** on the first day of the fall semester in a student's third year in the program (or following four regular semesters in the program) to the Candidacy Committee. The proposal should be a full draft, developed with all the component elements needed for a competitive extramural grant (e.g. scholarly impact, methods, budget, bibliography).

5. Graduate students have two options for their **PhD Candidacy Assessment**. By the end of the spring semester in their second year students should decide upon which option they would like to take and share this information with the DGS and their Candidacy Committee. In both cases, students will develop an extensive bibliography related to their research.

**5a. Option 1. Qualifying Exams.** Students will write two 10-12 page papers responding to two separate questions developed by their Candidacy Committee. The exam will be open book and take place on consecutive Saturdays (9a-6p each day) near the end of the spring semester of the student's third year. Following the completion of the Qualifying Exams students will meet with their Candidacy Committee to discuss the Exams and the overall intellectual project. In the spring semester of their third year, students may take a focused Independent Study to prepare for the exam. See further details on the Qualifying Exams on the department website under "PhD Qualifying Exam Details."

**5b. Option 2. Qualifying Essays.** Students will write two 25-30 page papers based on two questions provided by the Candidacy Committee. Over the course of the spring semester, each student will write, revise and edit their papers for submission to their Candidacy Committee; no preliminary drafts are to be sent to the faculty, only the finished essays. Following the completion of the Qualifying Essays students will meet with their Candidacy Committee to discuss the Essays and the overall intellectual project. In the spring semester of their third year, students may take a focused Independent Study to undertake

the essays. See further details on the Qualifying Exams on the department website under “PhD Qualifying Exam Details.”

6. An **approved dissertation proposal** of 10-12 pages (double-spaced) is also required to obtain candidacy for the PhD; this is to be submitted to the Candidacy Committee and DGS no later than the last week of the spring semester of the student’s third year.
7. The passing of a **language examination** for students not bilingual in their field language or a relevant scholarly language. The translation of at least 1,000 words into English in a period of 90 minutes is required, with the help of a dictionary. Language to be assessed is either the relevant field language or a major scholarly language, such as French, German or Spanish. The translation will be evaluated by an expert in the language or a native speaker who holds a Ph.D.
8. The maintenance of **good academic standing**. The departmental requirements for good academic standing are more stringent than those set by the university. The department will consider any student whose cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0 in any semester to be on academic probation. It will dis-enroll from the program any student whose grade point average falls below 3.0 for two consecutive semesters. Good academic standing is also evaluated in the end of year faculty panel and self-report.

#### FOR ATTAINMENT OF THE PHD

1. Selection of a **Dissertation Committee**. Faculty serving on the dissertation committee should be invited and confirmed by the end of the student’s third year. A committee chair should also be named. (When submitting forms for the advancement to candidacy students must name committee members and submit a tentative title for the dissertation.) The Dissertation Committee *must* include two regular (tenured or tenure-track) faculty in the department and one Rice faculty member from outside the department. Seating an extra-departmental member from outside the university is possible, but must be coordinated well in advance and several restrictions apply. Official signatories for the dissertation will be the two department faculty Dissertation Committee members with the third as the extra-departmental reader. Students must have three Dissertation Committee members, with one additional member possible for a maximum of four.
2. Successful **completion of extended fieldwork** with regular reports made back to the Dissertation Committee. All students must successfully complete the specific requirements for candidacy before being authorized to undertake sustained fieldwork for the PhD.
3. A total of **90 semester hours** of graduate study are required for successful completion of the PhD.
4. **Successful completion of the dissertation** in accordance with the expectations and guidelines provided by the student’s Dissertation Committee. When writing the

dissertation, students are to be enrolled in ANTH 800 to ensure that they will obtain 90 units of graduate course credit required for the PhD.

5. A **public oral defense** of the dissertation material with all faculty Dissertation Committee members present.

## II. BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES

1. Upon entering the graduate program, each student will be paired with two sociocultural faculty members to serve as initial advisors.
2. Each student will be provided with space in an office; students leaving for the field or who will otherwise be away from campus (officially categorized as “away students”) should vacate their offices before they depart and must let the Department Administrator know how long they intend to be away.
3. Students may use our copying and scanning services free of charge, being mindful about excessive use.
4. Students may check out books from the Anthropology Library; please register books removed from the library on the check-out sheet posted near 570A.
5. Students may have an opportunity to teach a course in the department once they have their master’s degree (from the department) in hand (and thus have achieved candidacy). In some cases, students with 18 hours of graduate course credit completed, and in good standing in the department, may be invited to teach a course.
6. Students who can provide documentation of their official participation (the presentation of a paper, the organization of a panel, etc.) in an academic conference or other academic venue are eligible for the reimbursement of travel expenses up to \$250.00 once each academic year. These funds are not available only for conference attendance. All requests for funding must be made prior to the event (at least 1 month in advance with suitable documentation) to the department Chair with a cc to the Department Administrator. Please submit receipts for reimbursement promptly after returning from the event. Receipts must be itemized and formal in order to be accepted by the Rice accounting office.
7. Summer research funding will be provided to each graduate student to be used for research expenses incurred during preliminary field work. This is a one-time disbursement (in the amount of \$1500) that is for *pre-candidacy* students and therefore must be used in either the first or second summer of the student’s program. Requests for funding must be submitted to the Chair (with a cc to the DGS) by the Tuesday immediately following spring break. The request should be no more than 500 words and must describe how the funding will be used with a short budget showing costs including a sample flight itinerary if applicable.

8. Students may make use of the water cooler, refrigerator and microwave in the department's photocopy/supplies room. Coffee is also available for a donation of 25 cents per cup.

### III. EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to:

1. Attend classes in accord with the schedule of meetings.
2. Be in residence at Rice until they have achieved candidacy and thus have the consent of the faculty to undertake dissertation fieldwork.
3. Attend all department-sponsored talks and dissertation defenses barring exceptional circumstances.
4. Contribute to the collaborative environment by volunteering for committees (e.g. colloquium speakers' committee; website committee; visiting weekend coordination, etc.) and other tasks that may need attention. Students are expected to balance their scholarly work with extracurricular activities.
5. Heed and comply with all university deadlines concerning enrollment and the submission of required forms. It is the responsibility of students to be informed about deadlines and requirements.