

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

<http://www.anth.ucsb.edu>

College of Letters and Science

University of California, Santa Barbara

Student Name: _____

Perm: _____

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE – ANTHROPOLOGY
SOCIOCULTURAL SPECIALIZATION

For Students Entering Graduate Program AY 2025-26

In addition to departmental requirements, candidates for graduate degrees must fulfill University requirements described in the “Graduate Education” section of the UCSB General Catalog.

A student who has completed the M.A. degree with the intent to continue on to the Ph.D. program will form their Ph.D. Committee and work toward advancement to Ph.D. candidacy. Students are expected to take a full course load their third year in order to fulfill contract requirements. The Department of Anthropology requires students to advance to candidacy by the end of their fifth year in the graduate program. Students formally advance to doctoral candidacy upon the committee’s approval of research papers and dissertation proposal and successful completion of the oral defense. Students not advanced to candidacy by the end of the fifth year may be subject to academic probation or department monitoring.

Time-to-degree: 5 years to advance; 8 years to complete the Ph.D.

ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY:
RESEARCH PAPERS, DISSERTATION PROPOSAL, PROPOSAL DEFENSE

Doctoral Committee: Chair: _____

Member: _____

Member: _____

Member: _____

Member: _____

Research Papers: In addition to the completion of elective courses per the student’s Competency Contract, students must demonstrate current knowledge of the dissertation research field by completing two research papers. These review and analyze the literature dealing with the proposed Ph.D. research, and the minimum length of the papers is 30 to 40 pages, corresponding to the length of a standard journal article. The exact focus of these papers is developed in consultation with the Ph.D. committee, which will be sensitive to the students’ needs in acquiring the background needed for the research. One research paper is theoretical. It surveys the theoretical debates that inform the research topic and that the project will address. In other words, this paper analyzes the theoretical issues that help to frame and contextualize the research. The second research paper reviews the literature on the geographical area, culture, and historical background of the people who will be studied.

Theory Paper approved on (date): _____

Literature Review Paper approved on (date): _____

Dissertation Proposal: Students must write a dissertation proposal, specifying the intended topic, theoretical framework, geographic area of fieldwork, and methods of research leading to the Ph.D. dissertation. The proposal should be a fuller, extended version of the kind of proposal that would be submitted to funding agencies to support the student’s dissertation research. All members of the Ph.D. Committee must approve and sign off on the proposal.

Dissertation Proposal approved on (date): _____

Oral Qualifying Exam: Once the Ph.D. committee has been formed, the student must schedule an Oral Qualifying Exam. In this meeting with the Ph.D. committee, the student presents an overview of their proposed dissertation research and responds to questions from committee members regarding the proposed research and background information related to the dissertation topic.

Oral Dissertation Proposal Defense date: _____

FIELDWORK

Fieldwork of at least three academic quarters' duration. Ideally students receive funding for their dissertation research in time to begin fieldwork during their fourth year, but it often takes longer than that, and if they are unable to begin field research until their fifth year they are still on a reasonable schedule. A student can expect to spend a year or a year and a half in the field, and it will take at least a year to write the dissertation after completing the field research. The Department of Anthropology sets a deadline of eight years to complete the doctorate.

DISSERTATION

When the dissertation has been completed and submitted, the student's Committee may either approve it or suggest further revisions. The Department does not require that students take an oral exam on the dissertation or that they engage in an oral defense for the Archaeology and Sociocultural Programs, but the University requires that a form be filed that waives the orals. The student needs to file the Graduate Division's Ph.D. Form III Report on Doctoral Degree Final Defense (waived) to verify that the committee agrees to waive the defense. Students are advised to obtain committee signatures on this form at the same time committee members are signing the dissertation signature page(s). When all the members of the Committee have approved and signed the dissertation, the student becomes a Ph.D. degree candidate.

Doctoral Form III (waived) approved date:
