Welcome to the Department of Anthropology

Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities

Graduate Student Responsibilities

Conduct
1. Attend your classes.
2. Complete assignments on time. When writing a thesis or dissertation, remember that you must circulate a draft to all committee members well in advance of the official filing deadline. Some committee members may request revisions before a defense is scheduled, and some may request revisions after a defense is complete.
3. Behave professionally during class time, with your instructors and your fellow students.
4. Follow the rules of academic integrity. If you are unsure what these are you can find them here: http://integrity.ou.edu.
5. Respect diversity, including diversity of ideas.

Progress to Degree
1. Take initiative and look for your own research projects, grants, fellowships and teaching opportunities.
2. Remember that the time line for finishing your degree is very tight. You need to quickly develop a plan for your thesis (if you are an MA student) or the areas you will cover in your general exam (if you are a PhD student). These ideas may change as you move along, but you need to have these important goals in mind from the beginning of your studies.
3. Make sure you communicate regularly with your thesis or dissertation advisor, and all committee members. Do your best to keep these relationships functional and healthy throughout your time at OU. If your research interests change over time, you should take responsibility for reconfiguring your committee.
4. Know the relevant Graduate College polices and procedures for your degree plan. These are available on the graduate college web page: http://www.ou.edu/gradweb. Specific requirements and rules are available in the Bulletin, which is also found at www.ou.edu/gradweb. If you cannot find the answers to your questions there, consult with your committee members, the Anthropology Department Graduate Liaison or the Chair.

Performance Evaluation
1. Understand that your performance as a student will be evaluated every year, and that graduate funding is awarded competitively.
2. If you receive a Departmental teaching or research assistantship you should make sure you communicate with your supervisor very clearly to determine exactly what his/her expectations are for you in this position.
3. Students who do not make satisfactory progress toward their degrees will receive a formal letter of concern as part of the annual evaluation process. If problems are not addressed, subsequent evaluations will include a letter of unsatisfactory performance. Two letters of unsatisfactory performance will result in automatic dismissal from the program.
Graduate Student Rights

Being Part of a Community of Scholars
1. You should pursue your own research interests, within the boundaries of the available resources and with guidance from your faculty mentors. Work with your committee to find a research topic that is doable, professionally useful, and of interest to YOU. Do not expect someone to assign your thesis or dissertation topic or form your graduate committee for you.  
2. Define your career goals and make a plan: what do you want to accomplish in your time here, and what comes next?  
3. You should expect prompt, courteous feedback on class assignments. The University generally defines “prompt” as within two weeks for class assignments and exams. Theses and dissertation drafts may require longer to review.  
4. You should expect a workplace and learning environment that is free of discrimination, harassment, substance abuse or sexual misconduct. You can learn more about OU’s specific policies regarding these issues here: [http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html](http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html).  
5. Appreciate academic freedom. You should be able to express your opinions freely regarding matters of institutional policy and in academic debates.  
6. Cultivate professional relationships with any faculty or students. We encourage you to look for friends, mentors, and future colleagues not only within your subdiscipline of interest, but in the other subdisciplines as well. We encourage a department where factions do not inhibit communication or a free exchange of ideas.  
7. You may participate in departmental governance through AGSA, the official Anthropology Graduate Student Association. AGSA representatives attend many department faculty meetings and contribute to administrative decision-making.

TA/GA Duties
1. You should obtain clear communication from faculty regarding their expectations for you as a TA/GA. Ask for this in writing if you are unsure. These expectations cannot deviate from the University’s written policies limiting the number of hours worked by student employees.  
2. You are entitled to clear communication regarding any disciplinary action taken by the department in regards to your performance as a TA/GA.  

For further information on any of these topics, please consult the latest version of the Department’s graduate student handbook, and the AAUP’s statement on Graduate Students, available here: [http://www.aaup.org/report/statement-graduate-students](http://www.aaup.org/report/statement-graduate-students).

Anthropology Department Resources
AGSA (Anthropology Graduate Student Association) Current President: Juliet Morgan  
Anthropology Graduate Liaison: Dr. Paul Spicer  
Department Chair(s) 2013-2014: Tassie Hirschfeld and Diane Warren  
Graduate College: Amber Hasbrook