

Updated: February 3, 2021

Anthropology Non-Thesis Option

Please refer to the Graduate School's calendar for all deadlines. Work credited toward a master's degree must be completed within six years, [per Graduate School rules](#). Please note that the non-thesis option in Anthropology is intended to be a rigorous evaluation of a student's comprehension of material learned over the course of their time in the program. In this sense, the non-thesis option is not "easier" than writing a thesis. Prior to committing to the non-thesis option, students should discuss their decision with the graduate advisor.

1. Take core courses as with the thesis option:
 - 5312
 - 5305
 - 5341
2. Take a minimum of 27 hours of coursework beyond the 9 core hours, 6 hours of which can be a minor.
 - a. Up to 3 hours of 6000 Thesis hours can be converted to 7000 Research hours to fulfill these non-core credit hours.
 - b. [Per Graduate School rules](#), no more than 6 hours of 7000 Research hours may be applied toward the degree.
3. All graduate coursework must receive a grade of B or better to count towards the MA degree.
4. **Forming an Exam Committee:** Sometime before their last semester students will choose a three-person examination committee to administer a three day exit exam. The student should invite faculty with whom they have had at least one class—more is preferable. Please note that faculty may decline a request to serve on a committee.
 - a. At least two of these faculty members must be current Anthropology faculty, one of which will be designated the committee chair.
 - b. The third committee member can be any faculty member at Texas Tech or elsewhere that is deemed acceptable by the committee chair.
5. **Scheduling the Exam:**
 - a. Students may not take the non-thesis exam prior to their final semester, defined as the semester they will complete the required hours and courses described above.
 - b. The [application to graduate](#) is mandatory for all students intending to graduate. Failure to apply by the given semester's deadline will result in extending your graduation to the next term.
 - c. Students wishing to graduate at the end of that semester must complete all components of the exam prior to the Graduate School's posted deadline for that semester.

- d. With the approval of the committee, students may complete all components of the exam by the last day of class in a given semester to graduate the next semester (or summer).
6. The exit exam will be arranged so that each committee member designs one day of questions. The number and scope of these questions is at the discretion of the committee member through consultation with the committee chair.
 - a. The student will discuss the exam format and question areas with each committee member and will choose reading lists for each area in consultation with each committee member.
 - b. Each individual committee member can decide which outside materials (including internet access during an exam) will be allowed into the testing room.
7. Upon a satisfactory completion of the written portion of the exam, as decided by the three committee members in consultation with the chair, an oral defense/discussion of the exam areas will be undertaken no later than 14 days after the completion of the written exam.
8. The committee chair should complete and submit the Report on Comprehensive Evaluation to the graduate advisor following the exam. The graduate advisor will upload the report to the graduate school.
9. Once a student has successfully completed the 36 hours of coursework and passed all three written exam areas and the oral defense they will receive the MA degree (non-thesis).
 - a. At the discretion of the chair, a student that did not perform satisfactorily on one of the three written exam areas could be given the option to re-do that portion of the test.
 - b. If a student does not pass all three written exam areas and the oral defense, they may request to repeat the exam after an interval of at least four months, per graduate school requirements as listed in the university catalog (<https://catalog.ttu.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=188#master-s-program>).
 - c. If a student fails to pass any portion of the exam on their second attempt, they will be released from the graduate program without a degree.