

Milestones to a Ph.D. in Biological Anthropology Yale University

See the Anthropology Department Graduate Student Handbook for more detail. “Specific Requirements for Biological Anthropology Subfield” lists useful topics of conversation for advising and mentoring in Years 1-2 that were developed jointly by subfield faculty and graduate students in 2020-1.

Year 1

- Meet with advisor; form full advisory committee by end of first semester
- Elective courses (generally 3-4 courses per semester), chosen in consultation with adviser and advisory committee
- Make early plans for summer research and/or grant-writing
- Discuss with advisers and seek out appropriate professionalization opportunities
- Attend Brown Beer and/or other appropriate Colloquium series (encouraged)

Year 2

- Elective courses (generally 3-4 in the Fall), chosen in consultation with adviser and advisory committee
- In early Fall, submit “Second Year Form” to Marleen Cullen to confirm members of your advisory/exam committee
- Prepare for and take qualifying examinations
 - Agree to scope, nature, and timing of exams Parts A and B in early Fall (at the latest)
 - Register for Exam Preparation in Spring
 - Complete written and oral exams in Spring
- Attend Brown Beer and/or other appropriate Colloquium series (encouraged)
- If appropriate, qualified students may work as Teaching Fellows in Year 2
- Meet with advisor and advisory committee
- Make early plans for summer research, with particular attention to preliminary/pilot data if appropriate

Year 3

- Complete and defend prospectus, encouraged by end of Fall if possible
- Applications for external funding, beginning in Fall
- Work as Teaching Fellow, as appropriate to trajectory and fieldwork plans
- Attend Brown Beer and/or other appropriate colloquium series (encouraged)
- Advance to candidacy and begin dissertation research / fieldwork
- Meet with advisor and advisory committee (update committee members as needed for dissertation advising)
- Be aware of GSAS policies on candidacy funding; consult with DGS as necessary

Year 4

- Dissertation research / fieldwork
- Communicate with advisor and others as appropriate
- Attend Brown Beer and/or other appropriate colloquium series (encouraged)
- Work as Teaching Fellow, if/as appropriate to trajectory and fieldwork plans

Year 5

- Be aware of GSAS policies on candidacy funding; consult with DGS as necessary
- Work as Teaching Fellow, or engage in fulltime writing on the UDF, as appropriate
- Attend Brown Beer and/or other appropriate Colloquium series (encouraged)
- Meet with advisor and others as writing progresses
- Dissertation research and writing, to completion if appropriate
- Apply for jobs, postdocs, other opportunities if appropriate

Year 6 (contingent on Graduate School approval - see [here](#) for guidelines; common trajectories should be discussed with advisers and DGS)

- Attend Brown Beer and/or other appropriate Colloquium series (encouraged)
- Consult with adviser and dissertation committee as writing progresses
- Work as Teaching Fellow, or engage in fulltime writing on the UDF, as appropriate
- Complete and deposit dissertation
- In consultation with adviser, publicly present research and receive feedback
- Apply for jobs, postdocs, other opportunities