

MAA Internship Sequence Guidelines

(April 2026, extracted from the Graduate Student Handbook)

The Masters of Applied Anthropology (MAA) is a non-thesis graduate degree organized around a professional Internship (*Applied Internship or Research Practicum*). The Internship fulfills the Graduate School non-thesis master's degree requirement for a **culminating project reflecting disciplinary and professional mastery** and preparing students for professional or scholarly advancement. The culminating project must synthesize advanced knowledge, apply appropriate methods or creative practices, and demonstrate mastery of the discipline.

In consultation with their primary advisor and their MAA committee members, students can choose between an ***Applied Internship*** or a ***Research Practicum*** to fulfill the MAA Internship (non-thesis Culminating Project).

The ***Applied Internship*** provides MAA students with valuable practical experience in applied anthropology, connection to the professional community, potential monetary support, and, ideally, future employment. For agencies, MAA interns provide an opportunity to use skilled labor to accomplish projects and generate data from an outsider perspective, as well as opportunities for teaching, collaboration with the university community, and a source of future employees. Faculty advisors and committee members benefit from student internships through closer ties to professional communities, greater awareness of the job market to better train our students, and greater opportunities for collaboration with off-campus colleagues. Research skills gained through the research practicum include the potential to interface with researchers at universities and non-profit research institutions, gain project management skills, and build community connections that facilitate future employment in research and as research faculty.

The ***Research Practicum*** provides MAA students with valuable experience in conducting an independent scholarly research project from conceptualization to completion. Students produce a scholarly paper as a culminating project that will benefit them along a number of different future career pathways. The Research Practicum option prepares MAA students to serve as Principal Investigators on larger-scale projects and provides training to prepare students well to pursue doctoral studies or other advanced degrees. Gaining experience with every step of the research process will provide students with skills that they could apply in program/project management positions both within and outside of academia. Students will build skills and competencies that will facilitate future employment in research and as research faculty. Completion of a culminating project will also set them up well for positions at universities and non-profit research institutions and instructors at community colleges and universities.

MAA Internship (*Applied Internship or Research Practicum*) Requirements:

- Completion of the required internship sequence courses:
 - **ANTH701 Internship Preparation** (3 credits), Year 1 Spring
 - Submit MAA Internship Proposal Review [Form](#)

- **ANTH789 Internship** (6 credits), Year 1 Summer (6 cr) or Year 1 Summer (3 cr) and Fall (3 cr)
 - Submit MAA Internship Evaluation [Form](#)
- **ANTH712 Internship Analysis** (3 credits), Year 2 Fall, Winter, or Spring
 - Submit MAA Internship Deliverables Review [Form](#)
- To include **two meetings** of the MAA Committee:
 - MAA Internship **Proposal Review**, see [guidelines](#)
 - MAA Internship **Deliverables Review**, see [guidelines](#)
- **MAA Internship Proposal Requirements (ANTH 701 Internship Preparation):**
 - A written MAA Internship Proposal
 - An oral presentation of the proposal to the MAA committee (Internship Proposal Review)
- **MAA Internship Requirements (ANTH 789 Internship):**
 - Complete scope of work/number of hours agreed upon by student, major advisor, and MAA committee members at the MAA Internship Proposal Review meeting.
- **MAA Internship Deliverables Requirements (ANTH 712 Internship Analysis):**
 - A student's internship deliverables must minimally include:
 - A presentation at the Department of Anthropology Annual Colloquium
 - A substantive independently-written product