

Thesis Proposal Guidelines

Historical Archaeology Master's Program

Department of Anthropology

Complete this proposal with the help of your advisor and submit it to the Graduate Program Director by March 1 if you expect to graduate in the fall or winter of that same year or November 1 if you expect to graduate in spring or summer of the following year. See the Graduate Handbook for more details. This form is available as a fill-in PDF file on the department website or in hard-copy from the Anthropology Department office.

General Information

1) Name: _____

2) Working title of project: _____

3) Thesis committee chair: _____

(signature *required* as chair approval of final product)

4) Two other committee members: _____

Proposal Questions

A successful thesis proposal requires four main components: a properly defined and relevant research topic; a description of how the topic relates to current research in the field; a source of primary archaeological or archival data to study that is both rich and manageable; and an analysis plan that helps connect the data and the question in meaningful ways. On additional sheets of paper, please answer each of the questions below to help you develop a focused thesis question that can be addressed through archaeological and historical analysis. *Be sure to provide a bibliography of sources that you have consulted or will consult as you conduct your research.*

1) What primary question or issue are you going to study in your thesis? Why is this topic important? (250 words max)

2) How have other researchers investigated the questions and datasets you are studying? How is your study different from or similar to this other work? (500 words max)

3) Every thesis must be based on original analysis of some primary archaeological, archival, oral historical, and/or ethnographic source material. What sources of data will you study to address your questions? How will you gain access to this primary material? Are any special time, labor, or material resources needed to undertake the project? (500 words max)

4) What methods are you going to use for your analysis? How do you expect to link your analysis to your research questions? (500 words max)

Schedule

1) Course completion schedule. Please fill in the table below.

Four required courses	Cr	Term taken (or planned)
ANTH 625: Historical Archaeology	3	
ANTH 640: Archaeological Methods and Analysis	3	
ANTH 665: Graduate Seminar in Archaeology	3	
HIST 685: Topics in Atlantic History	3	
Four elective courses (fill in number and name)		
Archaeological fieldwork requirement		
ANTH 685: Field Research in Archaeology Note course credit replacements if 685 waived:	6	
Thesis research credits		
ANTH 699: Master of Arts Thesis (Cannot be taken prior to semester proposal is submitted)	6	

2) Proposed thesis schedule. This is intended to help you develop an idea of the time still required to completion and let your committee make sure you have allotted enough time for your work. Please provide approximate dates or date ranges for each step indicated below.

Background research on topic and analytical approaches:

Analysis of primary source materials in lab and/or archives:

First draft chapter completed for chair:

Complete draft to committee chair (your chair should review and comment on your draft thesis and it should be revised before it goes to your full committee):

Committee draft to committee (minimum of 4 weeks prior to defense):

Approximate defense date: