APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION (AAHP)

Graduate Degree Program
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences / School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

Abstract

The University of Maryland's Dual degree Master's Program in Applied Anthropology and Historic Preservation is a holistic, comprehensive primer for a professional career in the research, understanding and preservation of cultural resources and heritage. The first of its kind in the United States, the new degree prepares students for the challenges—and increasing demand—of understanding, documenting and saving a wide range buildings, landscapes, sites and communities.

Why a Dual Degree?

Despite many overlapping themes, applied anthropology and historic preservation are very specific in their scope. Yet, as issues related to global heritage grow more complex, there is an increased demand for professionals who can transcend the multiple aspects of preservation and heritage. The new degree program positions students interested in pursuing a career in cultural heritage with a unique and competitive advantage; a comprehensive insight into both tangible heritage, such as architecture, artifacts and natural forms; and the intangible resources of society and culture. The experiential foundation offered by the two programs—including regional and international field studies, excavations and the use of LiDAR technology—offers the practical knowledge needed to succeed in an increasingly competitive and changing global market.

The Applied Anthropology and Historic Preservation dual degree takes full advantage of the diverse coursework offered at the University's School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and the Department of Anthropology, bringing together expertise in archaeology, vernacular architecture, ethnography, cultural resource management, heritage studies and social/cultural anthropology. The establishment of the dual degree forwards the University's mission of continued educational development that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship, and addresses its commitment to reducing student debt through more affordable degree options.

Financial Assistance

The principal form of financial aid for students in this program consists of graduate assistantships related to research and outreach activities. Assistantships are offered by both Anthropology and Historic Preservation, and consist of tuition assistance as well as a stipend. In addition, the HISP Program awards--in conjunction with local non-profit Prince George's Heritage--the Prince George's Heritage Preservation Fellowship, an annual competitive award for a HISP student or students whose Prince George's County related project is judged to be especially outstanding. Additionally, there are possibilities for paid internships and paid part-time work with a variety of national and local organizations and governmental agencies.

Contact

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Relationships: Historic Preservation (HISP) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/historic-preservation-hisp/)

Courses: ANTH (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/anth/) HISP (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/hisp/)

ADMISSIONS

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/))

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- CV/Resume
- Writing Sample
- Description of Research/Work Experience (optional)
- Portfolio PDF Upload (optional)
- Faculty of Interest

Because this is a joint program, the application is through the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. To apply, choose > Architecture/Planning/Preservation > Applied Anthropology and Historic Preservation (AAHP)

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	January 8, 2027

International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants	January 8, 2027

RESOURCES AND LINKS:

Other Deadlines: arch.umd.edu (http://www.arch.umd.edu/) or anth.umd.edu (https://anth.umd.edu/)
Program Website: arch.umd.edu/programs/graduate-programs (https://arch.umd.edu/programs/graduate-programs/) (Historic Preservation) or anth.umd.edu/graduate/graduate-studies (https://anth.umd.edu/graduate/graduate-studies/) (Anthropology)
Application Process: https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions (https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/)

REQUIREMENTS

- Anthropology and Historic Preservation, Master of Applied Anthropology and Master of Historic Preservation (dual degree) (M.A.A. and M.H.P.) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/applied-anthropology-historic-preservation-aahp/anthropology-historic-preservation-dual-degree-maa-mhp/)