Master of Arts in Anthropology and Education

Program Description — The master program in Anthropology and Education is concerned with the cultural, social and linguistic dimensions of education. Our program offers insight to better understand inequalities, cultural differences, linguistic diversity, and the wealth of human life for educational purposes. We examine educational processes in schools and classrooms, in families, on street corners, in community centers, in churches, and in all other non-conventional education settings.

Anthropology is well positioned to answer some of the toughest questions of education and policy-making because of its emphasis on spending time with and learning from people. The program highlights participatory ethnography: engaging in and observing human activities and conversing with people as a means of improving education and collaborating with local groups and organizations. As one of the only master programs in Anthropology and Education in the world, we offer a unique outlook on how to understand and support diverse approaches to education in and outside the classroom.

In addition to core Anthropology courses, we encourage our students to take courses with other departments and program at Teachers College and Columbia University, more generally. For example, many of our students take courses in the International and Comparative Education, Technology in Education, and Applied Linguistics programs.

Our program offers students related courses and concentrations in a highly individualized fashion. We strive to maintain smaller entering cohorts in order to magnify every student’s experience. Our students choose a concentration that most aptly fits their research or professional interests, while faculty work with students to create a course schedule that support these interests. Below is a list of concentrations that students can choose from:

- Urban Education
- Culture and Communication
- Ethnographic Methods for Education Analysis
- Global Studies in Regional Ethnographies
- Leveraging of Informal Education

Core course requirement — At least five courses (15 points) in anthropology.

Other course requirements — Three courses (9 points) in fields foundational to anthropology (economics, history, linguistics, philosophy, psychology, sociology).

At least four other courses (8–9 points) that directly contribute to the emerging professional interest of the candidate. These may be taken at Teachers College, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, one of the other professional schools (e.g., Public
Health, S.I.P.A., etc.), or area institutes of Columbia University.

**Required courses** — No individual course is required, per se, for the M.A. in Anthropology and Education. However, courses offered by the program all fulfill the core course requirements.

**Integrative project** — A non-course, advisor-approved, culminating project is a requirement of all masters’ degrees in Anthropology and Education. The exact nature of this requirement is determined with a faculty member.

**TC Breadth Requirement** — To satisfy college breadth requirements, master students must complete a minimum of 6 points in TC courses that are outside of their major programs. They can reach that 6-point threshold by any combination of courses that they choose in consultation with their advisors. Note that courses in the ICE Programs are outside the Anthropology programs and thus meet the breadth requirement.

**Transfer credit evaluation** — No transfer credits are allowed for the M.A. program.