

GUIDELINES FOR COMBINED F&ES/ANTHROPOLOGY PhD PROGRAM

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History and Purpose

The combined Forestry and Environmental Science (F&ES)/Anthropology PhD Program was first created by former Yale Provost Alison Richard to meet the needs of doctoral students in biological anthropology who wanted to draw more fully on the resources of both the Anthropology Department and F&ES. Recent interest in the combined degree has mainly come from students working in the allied fields of ecological anthropology, social ecology, and political ecology. The purpose and attraction of the degree is three-fold: (1) it combines the disciplinary identity and strengths of the Anthropology Department with the inter-disciplinary character and possibilities of F&ES, especially in terms of bridging the social and natural sciences; (2) it combines the strengths in ecological and environmental studies of F&ES with the social science strengths of the Anthropology Department; and (3) it combines the Anthropology Department's strengths in theory with the emphasis within F&ES on linking theory with policy and practice. The combined doctoral degree offers its graduates great flexibility when entering the marketplace: they can represent themselves as anthropologists and/or environmental scientists, as theoreticians and/or practitioners. They have the credentials to apply for policy-oriented positions with international institutions as well as academic positions in teaching and research. The academic program of each student in the combined degree program is to some extent tailored specifically to his or her particular history, interests, and needs, but there are general guidelines that combined students can be expected to follow, and they are laid out here.

Eligibility and Master's Degrees

In general, eligibility for entry into the combined degree program will be the same as that for either the F&ES or the Anthropology doctoral program (which is detailed in their respective bulletins). Prior award of a Master's degree is generally preferred for entry into the F&ES doctoral program but not the Anthropology doctoral program. Therefore, the desirability of a prior master's degree will be weighed on a case-by-case basis among applicants. Combined degree students will receive (upon petition) an M. Phil. From the Graduate School after passing their comprehensive exams.

Application

Prospective combined degree students must initially apply either to Anthropology

or to F&ES but not to both at the same time. They should, however, as per the current Yale Graduate School application process, indicate their interest in the combined degree by marking the application form appropriately. Once accepted in the initially chosen doctoral program, the student's file will be considered in the second program and a decision on the combined degree application will be communicated by the Graduate School by the usual deadline for acceptance of admission offers. Such students will be allocated to their initially chosen program as their primary administrative home but will enter Yale as members of the combined degree program. Being turned down for entry into the combined degree program at this point does not preclude re-application after arriving at Yale the following Fall semester.

It is possible for a student who has entered Yale through either Anthropology or F&ES as a PhD student to then petition to enter the combined degree program. A student interested in the combined degree may apply to the second program, after first securing the support of his/her principal advisor and either the Director of Doctoral Studies (DDS) for F&ES or the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) for Anthropology, as appropriate. In order to meet the demands of the combined degree in a timely manner, it is best if this second application is made as soon as possible in the student's doctoral program and ideally no later than the last week in October during the first semester of graduate study at Yale. To help make this possible, such applications to the combined program will be reviewed on an ad hoc basis as they are submitted, without being held to the normal annual calendar for doctoral applications. However, applications to the combined program should in content and all other respects follow the norms of the regular doctoral application (the sole difference being that the applicant should specifically address in the statement-of-purpose why he/she is interested in the combined program). This application will be reviewed by F&ES' doctoral committee, or the Anthropology faculty (in the latter case, the Departmental Graduate Registrar must receive the application at least one week before a regularly scheduled faculty meeting). If the applicant is admitted, the applicant will then submit the proposal (counter-signed by both DDS/DGS) to, and meet with, the Associate Dean of the Graduate School (currently Richard Sleight), who will make the final decision regarding admission. A positive decision by the Dean will constitute formal admission into the combined degree program.

Requirements of the Combined Degree

The requirements of the combined doctoral degree are the same as those of the doctoral degrees of F&ES and Anthropology (which are detailed in the bulletins of the respective institutions), with the following exceptions or clarifications. First, the combined students are required, upon acceptance into the combined degree program, to draw up a program of course work. The combined degree program requires doctoral

students to take 16 units/courses, which will be apportioned between Anthropology and F&ES, and other university departments, based on consultations with the student's committee. Combined degree students are expected to take all courses required of students in each program. This includes the one semester doctoral seminar at F&ES (taken in year one or two) and four first-year theory courses and two second-year research design and methods courses (as specified in the Handbook for Graduate Students) in Anthropology. Students entering the combined program with a prior Master's degree may petition for course reductions. In cases where equivalent graduate course work in research design and methods can be demonstrated the corresponding second-year requirement in Anthropology may be waived upon recommendation of the student's advisory committee. Second, the teaching fellow requirements of the combined program vary depending upon whether the combined student first entered into (and is thus receiving his/her stipend from) Anthropology or F&ES. Combined students receiving their stipends from Anthropology are expected to serve as Teaching Fellows (TFs) during their 3rd and 4th years except when in the field. Those receiving their stipends from F&ES are expected to serve as TFs for 2 semesters and R.F. for 2 semesters for a 4-year F&ES stipend, and to serve as TFs for an additional 2 semesters (viz., for a total of 4 semesters as a TF and 2 semesters as a Research Fellow (RF)) if they wish to receive a 5th year of stipend support for writing-up. (In the latter case, one of the additional 2 semesters must also be at the level of 20 hours/week, whereas all other semesters of TF and RF experience are for 10 hours/week.) Winning of outside stipend and tuition support reduces these requirements commensurately. Third, there are special guidelines for the combined comprehensive exams and prospectus, which are detailed in their own following section.

Doctoral Committee

Combined students will be assigned an advisor in both F&ES and Anthropology upon admission to the combined program. As soon as possible thereafter, but in no case later than the end of the 2nd semester, each student must constitute a formal doctoral committee. The committee must have two co-chairs, one from F&ES and one from Anthropology. The committee also must have minimally one additional member (and more are not uncommon) who can be drawn from either institution, the rest of the university, or from beyond the university according to the student's needs.

Exams, Prospectus, Dissertation

The combined degree students will usually take their comprehensive exams during a time to be decided upon in consultation with their committees, during the 4th semesters. This will be a written examination comprised of two parts. The first part of

the examination will be taken over four (possibly five) hours on a single day. It will be based entirely on the core sequence of seminars in Anthropology (i.e. Anthro 500a/b, Anthro 501a/b, and Anthro 503a/b). It will be taken in the last week of March along with other graduate students in Anthropology. Thus, combined degree students, for this part of their qualifying examination, will receive the same examination as their cohort in Anthropology, and the examination will be written by the professors who taught the core sequence to that cohort. The second part of the written examination will consist of 6-8 questions, of which 3-4 questions will have to be answered over four hours on a second day following the first examination. These questions, if the student chooses, can also be answered as a take home and submitted a week later. Two/three topics and pertinent bibliographies for this part of the written examination will be identified in consultation with the student's advisory committee and finalized by the beginning of the 4th semester. This part of the examination will be written by the F&ES members of the committee. The entire committee will sit in an oral examination of the entire written exams within two weeks of the completion of all written examinations. (Remote participation by telephone conference call is permitted where necessary, i.e. for outside members who cannot attend in person.) The exam will consist of a brief presentation/overview by the student, followed by questioning by the committee. There are only two possible exam outcomes: Pass, or Fail. If a student fails, he/she is dismissed from the program.

All combined students must prepare a comprehensive dissertation prospectus, called the field paper in Anthropology, in close consultation with their committee, and following Anthropology and F&ES guidelines. This document, which also serves as the basis for proposals for outside funding of field research, normally runs 50-100 pages in length. The student must defend this prospectus in a formal oral defense before the entire committee (and other interested faculty members). The oral defense is held within the department that serves as the student's administrative home, so Anthropology or F&ES, as the case may be. There are several possible outcomes to the defense: unconditional Pass, Pass conditional upon specified revisions to the prospectus, or Fail. If the student fails the examination, the committee, DDS, and DGS will together prescribe the remedy, which may include scheduling a second defense. If the student fails a second time they must withdraw from the university. A successful defense of this prospectus/field paper satisfies the oral defense required by the Department of Anthropology, and is required for admission to candidacy. A final version of this prospectus must be filed with the DGS by March 15th, and the student's advisory committee's endorsement of this document must be brought before the entire Anthropology faculty in its next meeting in April. Depending on their progress and readiness, combined degree students may complete these prospectus/field paper requirements in their fourth or sixth semester of study. If it seems advisable this requirement may be fulfilled in the fifth semester and in that case the final prospectus

would need to be filed with the DGS by October 15th.

The completed dissertation must be defended, following F&ES guidelines, before a meeting of the entire committee (and other interested faculty members). The defense will consist of a presentation/overview by the student, followed by questioning by the committee. There are three possible outcomes to the defense: unconditional Pass, Pass conditional upon specified revisions to the dissertation, or Fail. In the event of failure, the committee, DDS, and DGS will together prescribe the remedy, which may include scheduling a second defense. If the student fails a second time they will be dismissed from the PhD program. Following a successful defense, three formal reader's reports must then be prepared for presentation to the DGS and Anthropology faculty and the DDS and F&ES faculty. At least two of these must come from tenured Yale faculty.

Scheduling

Combined students will preferably schedule their comprehensive exams and prospectus defenses during the fourth and fifth semesters (and no later than the sixth), respectively. Most students find it preferable to schedule the prospectus defense after the comprehensive exam. Combined students should also write funding proposals during the 4th or 5th semesters (and intervening summer) so that they can depart for fieldwork after completing their exams and defenses. Combined students typically employ the summers after the 2nd and 4th semesters for pre-dissertation fieldwork and/or language study (and/or, in the case of the second summer, proposal writing). The principal period of fieldwork averages perhaps 18 months, but varies from 12 to 30.

Funding

The PhD program to which the combined student first applied is entirely responsible for his or her stipend and tuition waiver. Funding for summer fieldwork, language study, and attendance at professional meetings, and funding for the principal period of fieldwork, are available from a variety of sources. First, combined students are eligible for in-house grants from both Anthropology and F&ES. In the case of F&ES, these include research grants from the Tropical Resource Institute, conference travel grants from the Doctoral Program, and F&ES/YIBS research grants. In the case of Anthropology, these include the Williams and Albers Funds for research and the Schwartz Fund for conference travel. Combined students are also eligible for a wide range of intra-Yale grants for research and language study, including the Enders grant, and awards from the Agrarian Studies Program, the MacMillan Center, the various area studies councils, and a number of other area-specific grants. A fixed summer support grant is available from the Graduate School (for a maximum of three years) to those students who first applied to Anthropology, and fixed summer support grant is available

from F&ES (for a maximum of two years) to those students who first applied to F&ES and have not secured external support. Combined students typically fund their summer pre-dissertation research and language study from these Yale sources but fund most of their major period of fieldwork from sources outside Yale. Combined students have been very successful winning awards for this purpose from Fulbright, Fulbright-Hays, and NSF, among other sources. Students who first applied to F&ES (but not Anthropology) and who win outside awards for their major period of fieldwork may (if they wish) go off stipend for the duration of the outside award and partly “bank” that stipend support for use as needed during the write-up period (see the F&ES Doctoral Student handbook for further details). Combined students who first applied to Anthropology are eligible for a dissertation writing fellowship from the Graduate School to support them while writing up during the 5th year or 6th year. Students who first applied to F&ES are not eligible for this support from the Graduate School but are eligible for a 5th year of support from F&ES on the condition of serving as T.F. (at some point during the 5 years) an additional 2 semesters. Any additional work as a T.F. or R.F., done while the student is still on stipend and in order to supplement that stipend, is subject to Graduate School regulations. Winning of outside awards that apply to stipend/living expenses also is subject to Graduate School regulations.

Combined Degree

The student who successfully completes the combined F&ES/Anthropology program receives a combined doctoral degree in Anthropology and F&ES, not (e.g.) two separate degrees.

Further Information

Interested parties may contact the Program Coordinators, or the respective DDS and DGS, as follows:

Michael R. Dove and K. Sivaramakrishnan
Coordinators, Combined F&ES/Anthropology PhD Program

Gaboury Benoit
Director of Doctoral Study, School of Forestry & Environmental Studies

J. Joseph Errington
Director of Graduate Study, Anthropology Department

GENERAL SCHEDULE FOR COMBINED ANTHROPOLOGY/F&ES STUDENTS*

APPLICATION:

EITHER AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION TO GRADUATE SCHOOL:

To F&ES OR Anthropology as primary home with Combined Degree option: Year 0

OR AFTER ADMISSION TO EITHER THE F&ES OR THE ANTHROPOLOGY PhD Program:

To other program (to which one did not initially apply), then

To Associate Dean of the Graduate School: Semester 1 of Year 1

COMMITTEE:

Form committee with co-chairs from Anthropology and F&ES: end of Year 1

EXAMS:

Comprehensive exam 4th semester

Prospectus writing, defense, and final submission 4th, 5th, or 6th semester

OTHER PREPARATION:

Pre-dissertation fieldwork/language study: summers after 1st & 2nd years

Proposal writing for field funding: 4th or 5th semesters & summers

TEACHING/SERVICE

Anthropology: TF (unless in the field) Years 3-4

F&ES: 2 semesters as TF and 2 semesters as RF Years 1-4

F&ES: 2 semesters as TF (for optional 5th year funding) Year 5

DISSERTATION DEFENSE

Oral defense: --

Preparation of three reader's reports (at least two from tenured Yale faculty): --

* This schedule lays out the schedule for the combined program in general terms. For more detail, see the 4-page "Guidelines for Combined F&ES/Anthropology Doctoral Degree Program" and the F&ES manual "Procedures and Practices Relating to Doctoral Student Work."