

# Program Information

Medical Anthropology is an interdisciplinary subfield of anthropology that draws upon archaeological, biological, cultural, and linguistic anthropology to better understand assumptions about health and well being, the experience and distribution of illness, the prevention and treatment of illness, and healing processes across diverse populations.

The online Medical Anthropology program is unique among Creighton's healthcare graduate programs in that it broadens conventional views of health and healing by addressing complex cultural and biological questions. The interdisciplinary approach to health and healthcare makes the Medical Anthropology program highly complementary to other specialized health-related programs offered at Creighton.

• For more information or to apply online, please visit: [gradschool.creighton.edu](https://gradschool.creighton.edu)

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## MMA Program of Study

### MASTER'S DEGREE

#### 36 CREDIT HOURS (12 COURSES)

Students in the master's program choose from three tracks. The first two tracks culminate in an original thesis, while the third track requires a capstone paper.

Students in the Field Research Track identify a health-related research problem within a domestic or international context, design a research proposal, and engage in fieldwork. Students collect data and make observations in order to produce original knowledge and make concrete recommendations for health practitioners and policy makers.

Students in the Library Research Track identify a health-related research problem and engage in an exhaustive interdisciplinary literature search on the topic. They develop arguments for organizing and interpreting the literature and translate conclusions into suggestions for health practitioners and policy makers.

Students in the Practicum Track identify an agency or organization addressing health-related issues and select a supervisor within the organization to mentor their work. Students familiarize themselves with the programs offered by the organization and use a medical anthropology perspective to develop a product for the organization, such as a new program or assessment tool.

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

#### 15 CREDIT HOURS (5 COURSES)

Students in the certificate program do not choose a track but select courses from among the medical anthropology courses that are in line with their interests. The certificate is awarded whenever they have completed the required number of credit hours.

## Course List and Sample Sequence

### INTRODUCTION

Upon admission, students take the following orientation courses: GRD 600 Graduate Student Orientation and GRD 601 Writing for Graduate Students.

### CORE COURSES

The courses can be taken in any sequence.

#### TERM 1 (8 WEEKS)

SUMMER	<b>MMA 600</b> Seminar in Medical Anthropology <b>MMA Elective</b>
FALL	<b>MMA 610</b> Public Health Anthropology: Bridging Differences <b>MMA Elective</b>
SPRING	<b>MMA 750</b> Methods I: Quantitative Research Analysis <b>MMA Elective</b>

#### TERM 2 (8 WEEKS)

SUMMER	
FALL	<b>MMA 760</b> Methods II: Qualitative Field Research Methods <b>MMA Elective</b>
SPRING	<b>MMA 620</b> Global Health: Local Realities and Global Forces <b>MMA Elective</b>

### ELECTIVES

Students may take any of the elective medical anthropology courses, such as MMA 590 Social Epidemiology, MMA 591 Food, Culture and Nutritional Health, MMA 592 Social Science Approaches to Understanding Disease, MMA 593 Cultural Competency in Health Care, MMA 604 Social and Cultural Contexts of Health Care, MMA 619 Rescue and Transplantation: Manifestations of Scarcity and Power in US Health Care, MMA 650 Indigenous Health Issues, MMA 630 Health Care and Health Services: Anthropological Perspective, and MMA 640 Rural Health Issues and Initiatives. They can also take courses taught by the program's faculty in other programs.

### THESIS/PRACTICUM COURSES

After completing the core and elective courses, students take nine credit hours of one of the following: MMA 770 for students in the Field Research Track, MMA 771 for students in the Library Research Track, and MMA 772 for students in the Practicum Track.

# Faculty, Internships and Career Placements

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university by the start of the first semester in the program. An application should include:

- Completed graduate school application for admission
- \$50 application fee
- Current resume
- Statement of purpose
- Writing sample
- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- Three recommendations
- International students: minimum TOEFL of 550 (paper-based) or 80 (internet-based)

Applicants must acknowledge regular access to the technology needed to take online courses. By applying, students are implicitly acknowledging such access.

## PROGRAM DELIVERY

All courses are offered online. However, all medical anthropology graduate students are required to attend at least one 3-day graduate conference on the Creighton campus, held at the end of March of each year.

Throughout the program, each student will work with a mentor chosen by the student in conjunction with the program faculty.

## PROGRAM FACULTY

**Barbara Dilly, PhD**

*Expertise:* Qualitative methods, rural health

**Laura Heinemann, MSW, PhD**

*Expertise:* Qualitative methods, care and care-giving, domestic health services, anthropology of biotechnologies

**LaShaune Johnson, PhD**

*Expertise:* Community-based research, social determinants of chronic illness and cancer risk

**Laeth Nasir, MD**

*Expertise:* Family medicine, refugee health, Arab patients in healthcare

**Mark Robinson, PhD**

*Expertise:* Science and technology studies, translational science and medicine, neuroscience, bioethics

**Alexander Rödlach, SVD, MagTheol, PhD**

*Program Director*

*Expertise:* Qualitative methods, HIV/AIDS, religion and health, global health

**Renzo Rosales, SJ, MBA, PhD**

*Expertise:* Economic and development anthropology, intercultural competence, Latin American health issues

**Pamela Runestad, PhD**

*Expertise:* HIV/AIDS, medical narratives, Japan, bicultural aspects of health and illness

**Helen Stanton Chapple, MSN, PhD**

*Expertise:* Medical anthropology in nursing, ethics, death and dying, hospice

**John Stone, MD, PhD**

*Expertise:* Bioethics, healthcare disparities, community-academic partnerships

**Dianne Travers-Gustafson, RN, MS, PhD**

*Expertise:* Medical anthropology in nursing, public health, rural health

## INTERNSHIPS

The program faculty is committed to assist students in identifying internship opportunities that integrate a medical anthropology focus with their own health and health care-related interests. In the past, students have chosen internships with various governmental, non-governmental, and private organizations such as Lutheran Family Services, CHI Health, the Nebraska AIDS Project, and the Public Health Institute (California).

## CAREER PLACEMENT

Students trained in medical anthropology have strong employment prospects for academic and non-academic positions. Within academic anthropology, there has been steady growth in the number of faculty positions for medical anthropologists over the last decade. Medical anthropologists are also well qualified for faculty positions in medicine, public health, nursing and allied disciplines. In addition, medical anthropologists have strong prospects for nonacademic positions in the government, nonprofit, or private sector.



MMA

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MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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