

**University of California, San Francisco MD/Ph.D. in Medical Anthropology  
In conjunction with the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences and the  
UCSF Medical Science Training Program**

**Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP)**

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In addition to the instructions below, please read the [MSTP admissions website](#) information carefully. Here are specifics about applying to Medical Anthropology program:

1. We accept applications from MSTP students every year. You will be required to submit your application online by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the year you are applying to the MSTP.
2. Because of the nature of our program, students interested in pursuing the MD/PhD in Medical Anthropology will need to submit their online supplemental application directly at:
3. <https://gradapp.ucsf.edu/register/apply>
4. PLEASE NOTE: MSTP APPLICANTS DO NOT HAVE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:
  - GRE Scores, we accept MCATS
  - Unofficial transcripts are acceptable for the application. If you are accepted into our program, you will be asked to submit original transcripts at that time.

**Additional Application information:**

We recommend that you tailor the statement of purpose for our program. Please provide all the documentation listed on the supplemental application form. We also encourage you to submit additional letters of support, if you have them, particularly if they speak to your ability to conduct graduate work and/or research.

**FUNDING DURING THE PhD PROGRAM:**

**Please note that funding for MSTP Medical Anthropology Trainees is not the same as MSTP Trainees in the Basic Sciences.**

MSTP Trainees in the Basic Sciences receive full payment of all tuition & fees, either from the MSTP, their graduate program or their thesis advisor. In addition to the MSTP portion of the stipend, the Dean of the Medical School supplements that stipend for the first two years of the MD program for a total stipend of \$42,320 (2023-24).

Medical Anthropology MSTP Trainees do not work within the research projects of their advisors, but rather conduct independent research with mentoring from their advisors. **Therefore, the funding structure is different.** During the first 2 years of Medical School, MSTP covers tuition/fees and provides a stipend. For the first 4 years in the PhD program, the student will also have tuition/fees covered and receive a stipend: the current stipend amount is \$35,000.00 (2023-24). For the 5<sup>th</sup> year in the PhD program, tuition, fees or stipends are not guaranteed. The department nominates students for competitive internal grants, and the students are encouraged and expected to apply to external grants, and consider working as Graduate Student Researchers or Graduate Student Instructors to cover their tuition and costs for the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the PhD.

Upon return to the School of Medicine after completion of the PhD, the MSTP will cover all Medical Anthropology MSTP Trainees for their tuition and fees, in addition to the current Medical school level stipend. If the trainee reaches the end of nine years in the MSTP, they will no longer receive the School of Medicine supplement.

## PhD CURRICULUM

Once a student is accepted to MSTP and to the Medical Anthropology program, they will be required to discuss their PhD curriculum with our program director, Ian Whitmarsh. MSTP students are expected to begin the PhD program at the beginning of their 3<sup>rd</sup> year at UCSF.

All students accepted to the medical anthropology program are required to take core classes at both UC San Francisco and UC Berkeley. Since students begin our regular PhD program every two years (in even years - 2024, 2026, 2028, etc.), UCSF core courses are only offered every two years. This means that some MSTP students will enter in odd years (2023, 2025, etc.), when no core courses are being taught at UCSF. To facilitate students who start the PhD program in odd years, students will begin their program by taking a core class at UC Berkeley (Anth 240A), directed reading courses with UCSF faculty or taking electives (such as language courses) at UCSF/UCB.

**Table 1: MSTP students entering the PhD program in 2022, 2024, 2026 etc.**

	Location	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Year 1	San Francisco	205A	205B	211A Prequalifying exams	
	Berkeley	240A	240B		
Year 2	San Francisco	211B	211C		
	Berkeley	Electives	Electives		
Year 3	San Francisco	Electives	Electives	Electives Qualifying Exam	
	Berkeley	Electives	Electives		
Year 4	N/A	Dissertation Research			
Year 5	N/A	Dissertation Write up			

**Table 2: MSTP students entering the PhD program in 2023, 2025, 2027 etc.**

	Location	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Year 1	San Francisco	Directed Reading courses with advisors			
	Berkeley	240A	240B		
Year 2	San Francisco	205A	205B	211A Prequalifying exams	
	Berkeley	Electives			
Year 3	San Francisco	211B	211C	Qualifying Exam	
	Berkeley	Electives			
Year 4	N/A	Dissertation Research			
Year 5	N/A	Dissertation Write up			

### UCSF Class Description

205A

Introduction to Medical Anthropology Theory

205B

Introduction to Medical Anthropology Theory - Continuing

211 series Pre-qualifying Exam

Qualitative methods series - Research training

Qualifying Exam

Oral exam to evaluate student progress

Oral exam required to advance to candidacy

### UC Berkeley

240 A

Introduction to Socio-cultural Anthropology Theory

240 B

Introduction to Socio-cultural Anthropology Theory - Continuing

Electives

Students take courses at either campus focused on their areas of interest These also include language study and statistics