Thinking about Graduate School in Anthropology?

How to leverage your undergraduate Anthropology experience for Grad School

- Find and participate in intra- and extra-departmental internships
- Get some fieldwork experience
- Get some Lab-based experience
- Take advantage of study abroad programs
- Take advantage of undergrad research programs
    - McNair Scholars program (http://mcnair.ucsb.edu/)
    - Undergrad grants for research projects (https://urca.ucsb.edu/urca-grant)
    - Present your research as a poster at the annual Undergraduate UCSB Colloquium (https://urca.ucsb.edu/urca-grant#urca-colloquium)
- Join the Undergrad Anthropology Society (consider taking on an administrative role)
    - Scroll down at (https://www.anth.ucsb.edu/undergraduate)
- Consider working closely with an anthropology professor to write a Senior Thesis
- Scroll down at (https://www.anth.ucsb.edu/undergraduate)
- Consider attending a regional or national conference in your area to network and perhaps present research (relevant to those doing senior theses or URCA-funded projects)

Graduate School Applications are usually due between December and February. The **Graduate Application Packet** generally includes the following components:

1. Statement of purpose/interest
2. Personal Statement/Research Experience
3. Curriculum Vita (a.k.a. the academic resume; also referred to as a CV)
4. Official transcripts ($16-$41 per transcript)
5. GRE scores (starts at $205 per test)
6. Letters of recommendation (usually a minimum of 3; some programs allow you to submit more).
7. Writing samples (0-2)
8. Application fees (ranges from $0 to $200) – check with the graduate school office of the institution to which you are applying to see if this fee can be waived for financial hardship.

The Statement of Purpose (SOP):

This is possibly the **single most important** part of your application. The Statement of Purpose should be approximately 1-2 pages in length (single-spaced) and should include the following information:

1. Why you are applying to the particular department/institution
2. Your broad research interests (and how they fit with the department's overall perspective)
3. Your background in addressing/developing these interests (e.g., fieldwork conducted, papers written, conference presentations, travel abroad, competitive awards, key courses that have prepared you or made a significant impact, internships, campus organizations that may be related to your academic interests)
4. Your theoretical approach to the discipline (or approaches/scholars that have influenced your way of

thinking about the discipline).

5. Do you have a general or specific research project in mind that you would like to pursue for your master's/doctoral degree? If so, present it in a way that is not too specific –your future mentor will want to help shape your research projects so you need to seem open to change.)
6. Which faculty members are you most interested in working with at that department and how do your interests intersect with theirs? (note that you should mention at least three different potential faculty)

Curriculum Vitae (CV):

Your CV is your resume of professional/scholarly activity. Generally, you should include some variation on the following topics:

1. Education (college level, dates of graduation, GPA, *cum laude*, etc., title of senior thesis if relevant)
2. List of research interests (thematic, geographical, methodological)
3. Honors/Awards (related to your scholarly work; e.g., Dean's List, Phi Beta Kappa, departmental/university awards, paper awards, etc.)
4. Conference presentations/Publications (Most schools will not expect publications at this point, so don't worry if you don't have any!) – If you have presented a poster at the department symposium or as part of the UCSB URCA or McNair programs, include these.
5. Research Experience (Participation in field projects, laboratory projects, data collection, internships, etc.). Maybe you did an ethnographic project in a class—this sort of thing counts!
6. Language Skills (which languages you speak, read, or write and your level of fluency)
7. Service/Membership in professional societies (this includes the department's undergrad society)
8. List of Referees (people submitting letters of recommendation on your behalf and their contact information).
    a. Choose referees that know you best; opt for professors over grad students or lecturers; if you have lots of possible letter writers, then be strategic on your choice relative to the school (for example, did one of your professors go to graduate school with your prospective mentor at one of the institutions to which you are applying); when requesting letters, as if the potential referee could provide a *strong* letter for you.

Official Transcripts:

You must request your transcripts through the Office of the Registrar. Instructions for ordering transcripts from UCSB can be found at: http://registrar.sa.ucsb.edu/trans.aspx

Don't wait until the last minute or they will cost extra!
Current costs (as of May 1, 2013) **per transcript**/address:

- $16 for an official transcript delivered electronically or through standard mailing through US Mail (add 3-5 business days of university processing plus shipping costs).
- $41 for paper transcript that has been notarized

Graduate Record Examination (GRE):
The following information comes from http://www.ets.org/gre

- The computer-based *GRE* General Test is offered year-round at test centers, and also on specific dates (for paper test) at additional testing locations outside of the online test center network. Appointments are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- When selecting a test date, make sure your scores will be reported in time for your application deadlines. For online tests, scores reports are sent to your designated score recipients approximately 10–15 days after your test date. Please allow time for delivery of scores and processing by the institution.
- You can take the GRE revised General Test **once every 21 days** and up to **five times** within any continuous rolling 12-month period. This applies even if you canceled your scores on a test taken previously. You may take the paper-based GRE revised General Test as often as it is offered.

Additional GRE Information:

- If you are DSP student, look into whether GRE provides testing accommodations for you: (http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/register/disabilities/accommodations)
- You will be taking the *General* test (there are no subject tests for Anthropology)
- Cost = $205
- The GRE consists of three testing sections: Verbal, Analytical, and Quantitative
- Take a PREP course or download some practice tests:
  - http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/
  - Kaplan (which is local) offers prep classes for taking the GRE: https://www.kaptest.com/study/locations/gre/santa-barbara/ca/
  - The Princeton Review offer online practice tests: https://www.princetonreview.com/grad/gre-test-prep

Writing Samples:

- Each application will specify whether you should provide writing sample(s)
- If you are not asked to provide a writing sample, do NOT provide one.
- If asked to submit a writing sample(s), remember that it does not necessarily have to be a paper written in your discipline. The school wants to see your *potential as a writer*: your writing style, your analytical skills, and your ability to think/write critically about a topic.
- Make sure to revise and edit your writing sample carefully before submitting it.

Other Things to Consider:

Take a look at these books:

1. *Designing an Anthropology Career: Professional Development Exercises*, Briller & Goldmacher (AltaMira 2009)
2. *The Anthropology Graduate's Guide: From Student to a Career*, Ellick & Watkins (Left Coast Press, 2011)

Check out www.academia.edu or **https://www.researchgate.net/**
Many professors and graduate students post their CVs on their Academic pages. This is a great way to see examples for how we organize CVs and what types of things we include.

Visit programs and meet with professors with which you would like to work. Don't go into a program blind – not all mentors are good mentors, so if you don't get a sense of what a prospective graduate mentor is like, then talk to his/her current students. These days, zoom is a great tool for meeting without travel costs.

Things to find out about potential mentors:

- Do they collaborate and publish with students?
- Have they finished any MA or PhD students (new profs will not have had time to finish students, so check year they began their job)?
- Are their current students happy? You can often read between the lines on this even if someone is not

being explicit.
- Talk with your current professors about the mentors you are applying to work with

Be prepared to leave California! You should be following your research interests, not your geographic preferences. The chances of going to a CA graduate program and then getting a job at a college/university in CA is LOW. Graduate school applications and the post-graduate job market are highly competitive nationwide. Restricting yourself geographically reduces your chances of getting into a grad school and getting a job after the MA or the PhD.

Financial Considerations
- Financial aid eligibility (filing your FAFSA)
- Establishing residency in new states (how universities deal with residency varies broadly)
- Expectations of departmental funding
- Other sources of money
    - National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
        - http://www.nsfgrfp.org/
        - 3 years of tuition/fees (up to $12,000/year) and annual stipend ($37,000/year)
        - Eligible to apply: senior undergrad, first-year grad student
        - Must apply for Ph.D. program (not Master's)
        - Early November deadline
    - Boren Fellowships
        - http://www.borenawards.org/boren_fellowship
        - Long-term language and cultural immersion
        - There must be a significant language component to your graduate education, based on less common language learning or specialization in a world region (see website for list of countries)
        - Between $12,000 and $24,000 for overseas studies (depends on length or stay) / plus up to an additional $12,000 for summer domestic intensive language study.
    - Other scholarship/fellowship programs
        - Hispanic Scholarship Fund: https://www.hsf.net/scholarship
            - Eligible from High School to Graduate School
            - Ranges from $500-$5000, based on need
        - The Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans: http://www.pdsoros.org/apply
            - New Americans, Immigrants, or Children of Immigrants
            - Graduate School Funding
            - Supports 1-2 years of study, up to $25,000 annual stipend
            - Pays for up to 50% of tuition/fees, up to maximum of $20,000