Department of Anthropology

4034 Smith Laboratory
174 West 18th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210-1106

Phone (614) 292-4149
Fax (614) 292-4155
http://anthropology.ohio-state.edu

Columbus, November 30, 2020

Deborah Haddad
Associate Dean
114 University Hall
Columbus, Ohio 43210
RE: Anthropology MA admission and recruitment

Dear Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee and Associate Dean Haddad,

As part of the redesign of the graduate program in Anthropology, submitted to your consideration on November 2, 2020, the Department of Anthropology requests approval to stop recruiting and admitting students to the program with intent to earn a terminal Master's degree.

As detailed in the proposal, the revised program will admit qualified students who have earned a Bachelor's degree directly to the PhD program. We anticipate that the vast majority of our students will bypass the MA degree and move directly into preparing for candidacy. However, students who choose not to continue to the PhD may earn their M.A. once the minimum criteria for the M.A. are achieved (coursework + M.A. capstone paper).

For this reason, the department will not be recruiting or admitting students who wish to earn a terminal MA. This change reflects the current academic reality in our department and on the job market. Very few students in the past years have applied to the M.A. program without intending to continue to the Ph.D., since a general Master's degree in Anthropology offers relatively few career options. We would like to preserve a pathway to the MA only for students who decide not to complete the doctorate.

As detailed in the full proposal, this modification with have no impact on current students, because all enrolled students will have the option to continue their current curriculum or adopt the revised one.

This request accompanies the graduate program review, which has the full support of the faculty.

Sincerely,

Kristen J. Gremillion
Professor and Chair
Department of Anthropology
The Ohio State University
gremillion.1@osu.edu