

## Applying to Graduate School in Sociology or Anthropology?

Here are some things that you should include as part of your application packet:

- Statement of purpose/interest\*
- Curriculum vitae\* (a.k.a. the academic resume)
- Official transcripts\* (1-2 copies)
- GRE scores\*
- Letters of recommendation (usually 3)
- Writing samples\* (0-2)
- Application fee (\$50-100) – 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.
- Deadlines for submission (usually between Dec. & Feb.)

*\* indicates more information below*

---

### The Statement of Purpose:

- This is possibly the single most important part of your application
- Should be approximately 1-2 pages
- Should include the following information:
  - Why you are applying to the department/institution
  - Your broad research interests (and how they fit with the department's overall perspective)
  - 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)
  - Your theoretical approach to the discipline (or approaches/scholars that have influenced your way of thinking about the discipline)
  - Do you have a specific research project in mind that you would like to pursue for your master's/doctoral degree?
  - Which faculty members are you most interested in working with at that department and how do your interests intersect with theirs?

### Curriculum Vitae:

- This is your resume of professional/scholarly activity
- Generally, you should include some variation on the following subjects:
  - Education (college level, dates of graduation, GPA, cum laude, etc.)
  - List of research interests
  - Honors/Awards (related to your scholarly work; e.g., Dean's List, Phi Beta Kappa, departmental/university awards, paper awards, etc.)
  - Conference presentations/Publications (Most schools will not expect publications at this point, so don't worry if you don't have any!)
  - Research Experience (Participation in field projects, laboratory projects, data collection, etc.)
  - Language Skills
  - Service/Membership in professional societies
  - List of Referees (people submitting letters of recommendation on your behalf and their contact information)

### Official Transcripts:

- You will have to request official transcripts from the Registrar's office (they will send them to the schools/departments to which you are applying)
- Plan ahead b/c they cost \$\$
  - \$5 (5-7 days processing + regular mail)
  - \$20 (Immediate processing + regular mail)
  - \$35 (Immediate processing + overnight shipping)

### Graduate Record Examination (GRE):

- Testing is year round at several locations including Prometric Testing Center in Allentown
- Online registration: [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org)
- Score reporting takes approximately two weeks
- You will be taking the *General* test (there are no subject tests for Anthropology or Sociology)
- Cost = \$140
- 3 Sections: Verbal, Analytical, and Quantitative
- You can take it once a month – your second score is almost always at least 100 points higher than your first
- Take a PREP course or download some practice tests:
  - [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org)
  - <http://www.princetonreview.com/grad/testprep/>

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.