

## **Department of Anthropology Multimodal-Style Dissertation Option**

In consultation with and approval from their Major Professor and Advisory Committee, graduate students can choose to submit a scholarly **multimodal component with their** dissertation, which we will refer to as the multimodal dissertation. The multimodal dissertation format requires organization and careful front-end planning by the student. A student who wishes to use this dissertation format should seek the approval of their Major Professor and Advisory Committee before beginning the project. The use of the multimodal dissertation format is entirely at the discretion of the student's Major Professor and Advisory Committee. Intent to use this format must be stated at the student's dissertation proposal presentation. *However, current Purdue Anthropology graduate students are permitted to adopt this format retroactively, with explicit permission from their Major Professor and Advisory Committee.*

For the multimodal dissertation option, the Major Professor and Advisory Committee must agree that a component of the dissertation will be a multimodal component that measures up to the standards to the Society of Visual Anthropology guidelines or other equivalent guidelines for submissions. It is the responsibility of the student and the Major Professor and Advisory Committee to decide what type of multimodal component will be included in the dissertation package. The multimodal component included must be such that it is possible to see unity in the content of the dissertation. Ultimately, the Major Professor and Advisory Committee will determine whether the multimodal component substantially meets the content and submission guidelines for a credible submission as well as meeting the program's dissertation goals.

### **Multimodal Dissertation General Guidelines**

1. Overall dissertation can follow the traditional or article-style dissertation format.
2. A component of the dissertation should be dedicated to the multimodal dissertation format
3. This multimodal component should be in a high-confidence<sup>1</sup> data format for preservation purposes.
4. This multimodal component should be accompanied by text that provides the theoretical and methodological rationale behind the piece.
5. Students are responsible for ensuring that their dissertation is consistent with Purdue's formatting guidelines.
6. The PhD dissertation proposal (written and oral) is expected to follow the general proposal defense guidelines for a traditional or article-style dissertation. However, students must state their plan to pursue a multimodal dissertation.
7. The defense of the multimodal dissertation is expected to follow the defense guidelines for a traditional or article-style dissertation.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://libraries.flvc.org/documents/181844/502298/Recommended+Data+Formats/>

8. During the preliminary exams, the student should demonstrate competence to complete a **multimodal dissertation**.

### **Multimodal Dissertation Specific Criteria**

1. All chapters/articles must be based upon original research done while a doctoral student is at Purdue University. All chapters/articles must represent post-master's research. Multimodal work derived from work begun for a master's project may not be included as part of the dissertation package.
2. There is no minimum required format for the multimodal component, as standards should conform to appropriate norms. Ultimately, the student's Major Professor and Advisory Committee will determine whether the multimodal component is sufficient to fulfill dissertation requirements.
3. To be accepted for fulfillment of a multimodal dissertation, the component must be deemed appropriate in theme and content by the Major Professor and Advisory Committee. Multimodal components that are not relevant to the student's over-arching research topic will not fulfill dissertation requirements.
4. Given the collaborative nature of Anthropology, there may be a tendency for doctoral scholars to produce a collaborative multimodal component. Generally, only a multimodal component for which the student is the equivalent of the "**first author**" can be included in the dissertation package (in some cases senior collaborators may expect authorship regardless of actual contribution; the student's the Major Professor and Advisory Committee may then waive the rule on a case-by-case basis). However, the student must have been substantially involved in the design for any multimodal component included in the dissertation. In the case of multimodal with multiple authors, the student must preface the component with a paragraph detailing the contribution of each listed author to the creation of the component, even if he or she is "first author."
5. Co-authorship with the student's Major Professor or Advisory Committee members is common, but represents a potential conflict of interest. The Advisory Committee should be formed such that at least two members have no connection with the multimodal component submitted.
6. When two or more doctoral students co-author a multimodal component, it is not permissible for both (or all) students to submit the same component as a part of their individual doctoral dissertations. The doctoral dissertation is explicitly intended to be a demonstration of individual abilities and accomplishments. Co-authored multimodal components submitted as part of a dissertation must satisfy the requirement that only one student co-author is designated as first author.
7. When using materials from collaborators, footnotes must acknowledge the contribution of the collaborators, including any multimodal component that were not created by the author alone.