

Assessment Overview for the B.A. in Anthropology

A. Process Used to Develop the Learning Assessment Plan

In order to create this plan both the Undergraduate Committee and the faculty participated in developing the assessment plan. First the Undergraduate Committee developed a set of Core Values for the undergraduate program. The Committee then presented the document to the faculty for discussion, modification and enhancement. The Undergraduate Committee then developed the assessment plan using the Core Values as the basis for developing the Learning Outcomes and the Assessment Plan. The entire faculty participated in developing and modifying the plan.

B. Use of the Assessment Plan's Results

Every year the faculty of the Undergraduate Committee will assess the assignments for all anthropology majors for one of the student learning outcomes. Our goal is to have at least 70% of the students develop projects that are evaluated at the level of proficient/good or accomplished/excellent. If we meet this goal, no action will be taken. However, if more than 30% of the projects are rated inadequate or developing, then the committee will analyze the results and work with the course instructor to develop a plan in order for majors to reach this goal.

Objective	Assessment Criteria			
	Novice/Inadequate	Developing	Proficient/Good	Accomplished/Excellent
<p>1. Diversity: Demonstrate knowledge, awareness and understanding of a culturally and biologically diverse world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Recognize the diversity of cultures b) Recognize the diversity of perspectives c) Recognize diversity in race, class, gender, and age d) Critically examine their own cultural and social identities and understand how those identities shape their beliefs and attitudes e) Critically evaluate how people and groups vary across time and places and the effect of such variation f) Understand social inequality and become civically engaged to address the issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not demonstrate the knowledge and understanding of a diverse world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows some understanding of the knowledge of a diverse world, but still needs to develop an understanding why this objective is important. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has good foundation for knowing and understanding a diverse world. The student is able to apply knowledge to new problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows exceptional understanding of a diverse world. The student makes a scholarly contribution
<p>2. Culture: Demonstrate an understanding of culture and society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Critically examine different societies and provide a context for values and the values of others b) Offer possible explanations that address cultural and biological differences c) Understand the process and affects of globalization d) Encourage students to take courses that emphasize foreign cultures and/or encourage a foreign language e) Encourage study abroad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not demonstrate an understanding of culture and society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows some understanding of culture and society, but still needs to develop a better understanding of why it is important to value other cultures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has good foundation for knowing and understanding the value culture and society. Major is able to apply knowledge to new problems related to cultural diversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows exceptional understanding of a diverse cultures in the world. The student is able to make a scholarly contribution

<p>3. Research and Application: Demonstrate the ability to understand complex research problems, and articulate appropriate methods and theory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Describe the role of research methods in building anthropological knowledge b) Ability to design and carry out a anthropology research project, describe the role of data analysis, and answer social questions c) Ability to use the computer in the acquisition and analysis of information and data d) Critically identify underlying assumptions in particular theoretical orientations or arguments e) Critically identify underlying assumptions in particular methodological approaches to an issue f) Present opposing viewpoints and alternative hypotheses on various issues g) Show how patterns of thought and knowledge are directly influenced by political, economic and/or social structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not understand basic principles of research methods and applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows some understanding of research methods and applications but not able to apply knowledge to new problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Has good foundation in research methods and applications, and shows evidence of being able to apply knowledge to new problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Shows exceptional understanding of research methods and applications that will enable the student to make a scholarly contribution.
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ASSESSMENT PLAN

ANTHROPOLOGY, B.A.

(Program of Study / Major / Degree Level, etc.)

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Date submitted to Academic Unit Head: Fall 2006

Program Goals: The Department of Anthropology (ANTH) B.A. program is based on a scientific and humanistic discipline devoted to improving our understanding of human culture and diversity. Anthropologists are holistic in that they endeavor to describe in the broadest sense what it means to be human. This includes exploring relationships between the human past and the present as well as between the biological and social components of our species. Anthropology is the study of people – their origins, adaptations and ecology, distribution, customs, languages, and social and religious beliefs. The program maintains a strong focus on the practical uses and applications of anthropological knowledge and is committed to teaching students about culture, diversity and developing research skills.

Student Learning Outcomes (list the three-to-five most important)	Assessment Measures and Criteria (describe one or more measures for each outcome and criteria for success)	Assessment Schedule (initial year, and subsequent cycle)
1. <i>Students shall have an integrated knowledge, awareness and understanding of a culturally and biologically diverse world.</i>	Method and Theory in Biological Anthropology (ANTH 320) maintains a regular assignment to produce a single-authored essay with a biocultural focus on some key aspect of human biodiversity. The essay shall be suitable for online publication in the student journal Maryland Essays in Human Biodiversity. Seventy percent of majors should be assessed as proficient/good or better on this assignment. (See attached rubric.)	ANTH 320 is offered once a year and grades for this assignment will be assessed every three years beginning in 2006.

<p>2. <i>Students shall demonstrate an understanding of culture and society.</i></p>	<p>Method and Theory in Socio-Cultural Anthropology (ANTH360) has a researched paper that has a subfield/focus in socio-cultural anthropology. The topic is examined from the two perspectives; 1) the history of anthropological ideas, 2) the philosophy of anthropological methods and science. The paper includes reviews of case and other exemplary studies. Seventy percent of majors should be assessed as proficient/good or better on this assignment. (See attached rubric.)</p>	<p>ANTH 360 is offered once a year and grades for this assignment will be assessed every three years beginning in 2007.</p>
<p>3. <i>Students shall demonstrate the ability to understand complex research problems, and articulate appropriate methods and theory.</i></p>	<p>Method and Theory in Archaeology (ANTH 340) has a research proposal that incorporates a comprehensive understanding of anthropological archaeology. Students must follow the proposal format of a national granting agency. They should articulate their knowledge of the subdiscipline and develop a research problem. Seventy percent of majors should be assessed as proficient/good or better on this assignment. (See attached rubric.)</p>	<p>ANTH 340 is offered once a year and grades for this assignment will be assessed every three years beginning in 2008.</p>