Department: Anthropology (Undergraduate Program)

Assessment Coordinator: Daniel Boxberger

Departmental Mission: In support of the mission of Western Washington University and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences the Department of Anthropology provides a high quality educational experience for undergraduate and graduate students and contributes to the overall mission of the University through research, scholarship, and community service. The Department provides a solid grounding in the four fields of Anthropology: cultural, physical, archaeological and linguistic. The Department trains students in the fundamental concepts of anthropology which enables them to think critically about their role in a multi-cultural world. Given this mission the Department is committed to achieving four specific goals that promote a deep understanding of the diversity of humankind and engage in the practical application of anthropology in the community.

Department Student Learning Outcomes: Upon graduation, anthropology majors will be able to:

1. demonstrate a deep understanding of humankind, both past and present.
2. acquire knowledge of principles and primary data in each of the four subfields and appreciate their interconnections (cultural anthropology; linguistic anthropology; archaeology; and biological anthropology) and understand professional ethics.
3. analyze and organize the knowledge gained in order to demonstrate an appreciation of the diversity of humankind.
4. know how to engage in the practical application of anthropology in the community.
5. view their education in anthropology as relevant to their lives post-graduation.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessed This Year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measures</th>
<th>SLO’s Assessed</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final exams, papers, presentations and projects in core theory and methods courses (ANTH 301, 303, and 335).</td>
<td>2,4</td>
<td>The core courses were discussed at our annual year-end assessment meeting. Faculty offering ANTH core courses presented a self-assessment of SLOs 2 and 4 based on student products. Faculty offering core courses were generally satisfied with the results for SLO 2, the students demonstrate the acquisition of knowledge of the principles and primary data in each of the four subfields and an understanding professional ethics. However, an exception is the part of SLO 2, an appreciation of the interconnections between the four subfields (cultural anthropology; linguistic anthropology; archaeology; and</td>
</tr>
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</table>
biological anthropology) was not deemed satisfactory.

SLO 4 was especially well grounded in ANTH 303 where students gain practical experience in the application of anthropology in the community.

**Program Changes Based on Assessment**

Ways to improve an appreciation of the interconnections between the four subfields was discussed and it decided that TT/TN faculty would be invited as guest speakers to present examples of their own research that crosses the subfields in each of the core courses. This would expose majors to the faculty and inform majors of what types of research faculty are engaged in. It would also give “real-life” examples of the interconnections and the application of anthropology in the community.

Further discussion concerned the adoption of a uniform text for each of the core courses; this will be piloted for 301 in 2013/14 and discussed for 303. Anth 335 already uses a uniform text.
Department: **Anthropology (Graduate Program)**

Assessment Coordinator: Daniel Boxberger

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**Department Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon graduation, anthropology majors will be able to:

1. demonstrate advanced knowledge of the principles and sources of primary data in one or more subfields of anthropology and clearly understand the historical connections between the major ideas that drive research in the field.
2. demonstrate abilities and skills that include intelligent evaluation of available information, creative problem-solving, effective application of logic in research design, quantitative skills, and refined levels of verbal and written communication.
3. demonstrate awareness of the political and social roles of science and scholarship, especially the ability to deal with the ethical challenges of an increasingly complex society.
4. demonstrate preparation for a variety of professional careers utilizing anthropology or for PhD programs or other advanced degrees.
5. view their graduate education in anthropology as relevant to their lives upon completion of the MA degree.

**Student Learning Outcomes Assessed This Year:**

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<tr>
<td>Papers and presentations in three specialized graduate-level courses. (Culture region, methods and topical).</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
<td>Assessment of this SLO was deferred until 2014. <a href="#">Dan will clarify.</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A continuation of the assessment of the core theory and methods courses was discussed at the annual year-end assessment meeting. It was determined that a proper assessment of the effectiveness of the core courses had not been completed. Assessment of the culture region, methods and topical requirements should be assessed in conjunction with the assessment of core courses.

**Program Changes Based on Assessment**
Assessment of this SLO was deferred until 2014. [Dan will clarify.](#)
A continuation of the assessment of the core theory and methods courses was discussed at the annual year-end assessment meeting. It was determined that a proper assessment of the effectiveness of the core courses had not been completed. Assessment of the culture region, methods and topical requirements should be assessed in conjunction with the assessment of core courses.