

Assessment Plan

Western Michigan University

Anthropology

Mission Statement: Our program's core purpose is to provide students with anthropological knowledge and with critical thinking skills through teaching, mentoring, and conducting both scholarly and applied research. We see anthropology as a means to enhance the understanding of the human condition by integrating historical, cultural, and biological perspectives. Through teaching, research, and example we aim to broaden our appreciation of human diversity past and present; to explore issues of cultural and biological change; and to gain awareness of and affect the conditions that give rise to social differences and inequalities. The intent of these efforts is to provide students and faculty with an academic environment for liberal thinking that will encourage the appreciation and exploration of human diversity; the application of modern technologies to document and solve social problems; and respect for the diversity of ideas and world-views in teaching, research, and its practical applications.

The department's specific learning goals are multiple and reflect the unique character of the discipline of anthropology. Anthropology stands apart from other disciplines because it combines multiple sub-fields that bridge the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities. Our department at WMU is composed of the three anthropological sub-fields of cultural anthropology, archaeology and biological anthropology. Each sub field examines different aspects of the human experience, using diverse research strategies and methods. However, all the sub fields share a commitment to a holistic approach to understanding humankind. The structure of anthropology as a discipline and the specialties of WMU's department are reflected in the learning goals, objectives and assessment criteria we have established.

As our mission statement clearly outlines, the department of Anthropology is an integral part of the University's larger mission to "create academic programs of excellence" and to enhance the multi-cultural nature of the University's curriculums and the intellectual community as a whole. Our research and teaching specialties center on providing students with the theoretical and methodological tools to analyze and understand the ways in which social differences are created, reproduced and transformed. In light of these unique contributions, Anthropology plays a central role in the general education curriculum. In turn, our significant contributions to General Education play a very important role in how our majors and minors are recruited. As will become clear later in this document, this ultimately impacts on how we have designed our assessment plan.

Vision Statement: The purposes of our assessment plan are multiple. First, it will help to determine student learning of the goals and objectives outlined below. Second, assessment will help the department determine areas where curricular change may be needed as well as increase faculty and student input/ownership of curricular changes. Third, assessment will work to enhance the dialogue about the multidimensional nature of teaching and learning among faculty members and between students and faculty.

Outcome: Outcome #1

Students should demonstrate a critical understanding of anthropological concepts and use anthropological terms correctly

Track: Undergraduate Major

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Every other year we'll look at this outcome to see if it pertains.

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Review of portfolios by majors in 4000-5000 level classes. Assessment Method Category: Portfolio Review	Criterion is met if committee assigns a rating of "2" or higher on a scale of 1-5 on each student's assessment of portfolio.	Will be reviewed once every two years.	Yes

Outcome: Outcome #2

Students should be able to evaluate anthropologic texts and understand and describe the major principles, controversies, and critiques

Track: Undergraduate Major

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Assessed every other year.

Means of Assessment

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Review portfolios of majors in 4000-5000 level classes. Assessment Method Category: Portfolio Review	Criterion is met if committee assigns a rating of "2" or higher on a scale of 1-5 on each student's assessment of portfolio.	Every other year.	Yes

Outcome: Outcome #3

Students should demonstrate knowledge of the diverse ways of being human (past and/or present)

Track: Undergraduate Major

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Every other year.

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Review portfolio of majors in 4000-5000 level classes. Assessment Method Category: Portfolio Review	Criterion is met if committee assigns a rating of "2" or higher on a scale of 1-5 on each student's assessment of portfolio.	Every other year.	Yes

Outcome: Outcome #4

Students should understand how to critique inequalities within and/or between social systems

Track: Undergraduate Major

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Every other year.

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Review portfolio of majors in 4000-5000 level classes. Assessment Method Category: Portfolio Review	Criterion is met if committee assigns a rating of "2" or higher on a scale of 1-5 on each student's assessment of portfolio.	Every other year.	Yes

Outcome: Outcome #5

Students should be able to make connections between the past and the present, the local and the global

Track: Undergraduate Major

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Review portfolio of majors in 4000-5000 level classes. Assessment Method Category: Portfolio Review	Criterion is met if committee assigns a rating of "2" or higher on a scale of 1-5 on each student's assessment of portfolio.	Every other year.	Yes

Outcome: Outcome #6

Students should demonstrate an understanding of the basic analytic techniques of biological anthropology, cultural anthropology and /or archaeology

Track: Undergraduate Major

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Review portfolio of majors in 4000-5000 level classes. Assessment Method Category: Portfolio Review	Criterion is met if committee assigns a rating of "2" or higher on a scale of 1-5 on each student's assessment of portfolio.	Every other year.	Yes

Outcome: Outcome #7

Students should demonstrate an understanding of ethical practice in conducting anthropological research (especially important for original research)

Track: Undergraduate Major

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Review portfolio of majors in 4000-5000 level classes. Assessment Method Category: Portfolio Review	Criterion is met if committee assigns a rating of "2" or higher on a scale of 1-5 on each student's assessment of portfolio.	Every other year.	Yes

Outcome: Outcome #8

Students should demonstrate the ability to integrate/and or incorporate multiple authors, ideas and perspectives

Track: Undergraduate Major

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Review portfolio of majors in 4000-5000 level classes. Assessment Method Category: Portfolio Review	Criterion is met if committee assigns a rating of "2" or higher on a scale of 1-5 on each student's assessment of portfolio.	Every other year.	Yes

Outcome: Outcome #9

Students should demonstrate an understanding of the methodological possibilities employed in archaeology, biological and cultural anthropology

Track: Undergraduate Major

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Review portfolio of majors in 4000-5000 level classes. Assessment Method Category: Portfolio Review	Criterion is met if committee assigns a rating of "2" or higher on a scale of 1-5 on each student's assessment of	Every other year.	Yes

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
	portfolio.		

Outcome: Outcome #10

Students should be able to construct a logical argument with clear conclusions and based on primary literature in Anthropology

Track: Undergraduate Major

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Review portfolio of majors in 4000-5000 level classes. Assessment Method Category: Portfolio Review	Criterion is met if committee assigns a rating of "2" or higher on a scale of 1-5 on each student's assessment of portfolio.	Every other year.	Yes

Outcome: Outcome #11

Students should know how to properly reference and cite academic sources

Track: Undergraduate Major

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Review portfolio of majors in 4000-5000 level classes. Assessment Method Category: Portfolio Review	Criterion is met if committee assigns a rating of "2" or higher on a scale of 1-5 on each student's assessment of portfolio.	Every other year.	Yes