

## **Anthropology Graduate Learning Goals** *Draft May 13, 2016*

### **A. Institutional Graduate Learning Goals**

1. *Disciplinary knowledge*: Master, integrate, and apply disciplinary knowledge and skills to current, practical, and important contexts and situations.
2. *Communication*: Communicate key knowledge with clarity and purpose both within the discipline and in broader contexts.
3. *Critical thinking/analysis*: Demonstrate the ability to be creative, analytical, and critical thinkers.
4. *Information literacy*: Demonstrate the ability to obtain, assess, and analyze information from a myriad of sources.
5. *Professionalism*: Demonstrate an understanding of professional integrity.
6. *Intercultural/Global Perspectives*: Demonstrate relevant knowledge and application of intercultural and/or global perspectives.

### **B. Anthropology Graduate Program Learning Goals and Outcomes**

#### Goal 1: Disciplinary Knowledge

Students should gain currency in the scholarly literature related to the historical development of, and contemporary perspectives on, the issues, theories, and models critical to one or more anthropological sub-disciplines (i.e., archaeological, biological, cultural, or linguistic anthropology).

#### Outcomes

- Ability to assess earlier research and perspectives in contemporary terms.
- Demonstrate how anthropological scholarship contributes to, and in turn is influenced by, theories from other disciplines.
- Ability to evaluate new and existing information on the basis of current global, social, and/or evolutionary models to formulate original research of new significance.

#### Goal 2: Communication

Students should develop skills to compile, analyze, and present complex information/data in defensible fashion expected of professionals in one or more anthropological sub-disciplines.

#### Outcomes

- Ability to present complex arguments for proposed research.
- Ability to prepare results for presentation in various academic, other professional, and public venues in both written and oral formats.
- Ability to identify and cite appropriate scholarly sources.
- Ability to write in a clear, organized, and grammatically correct manner.

### Goal 3: Critical Thinking/Analysis

Students should be able to critically assess and evaluate the quality of the arguments, issues, or ideas presented in current and past anthropological debates, and contribute to the discipline by conducting original research in one or more anthropological sub-disciplines.

#### Outcomes

- Ability to critically evaluate issues through an anthropological lens and articulate the ways in which nature, culture, and society intersect and inform the human experience.
- Ability to engage in and synthesize ongoing debates and discussions in the field through the development of strong analytical skills and arguments.
- Ability to compile and analyze original data relevant to an identified research question.

### Goal 4: Information Literacy

Students should be able to obtain, assess, synthesize, and analyze information from a myriad of scholarly resources, including raw qualitative and quantitative data sources, archival documents, gray literature, and refereed publications.

#### Outcomes

- Ability to identify pertinent issues and data/information needs to develop a proposal for original research.
- Ability to complete literature review, including the use of published research, grey literature, and raw quantitative and qualitative data.

### Goal 5: Professionalism

Students should have an understanding of professional integrity within the discipline, including ethical and legal dimensions of conducting anthropological research.

#### Outcomes

- Ability to navigate through ethical and legal elements of their research, as dictated by disciplinary needs.
- Ability to navigate through approval processes for research on human subjects, archaeological collections, and ethical treatment of animals, as dictated by research methodologies.
- Ability to comply with responsible code of research, including the ethical use and misuse of data, data sharing, acknowledgement of intellectual property, and plagiarism.

### Goal 6: Intercultural/Global Perspectives

As anthropologists, students are expected to be able to have a broad understanding of the varieties of human experience, including skills and values needed for citizenship in our diverse culture and the world.

#### Outcomes

- Effectively use anthropological concepts, frameworks, and/or theories to analyze, explain, and address the diversity in human experience.

- Ability to recognize the development of unique cultures through their particular histories.
- Ability to recognize cultural biases introduced into past and present research.
- Ability to recognize the impact of research on research populations and descendent communities.

### C. Curriculum Map

Learning outcomes should be introduced (I) and developed (D) as undergraduates prior to admission to the graduate program. As graduate students, individuals should gain proficiency (P) to mastery (M) of each learning outcome. While elective (e) courses will cover many assessment outcomes, we will not assess there.

Coursework	PLO 1	PLO2	PLO 3	PLO 4	PLO 5	PLO 6
ANTH 202 (C)	D/P	D/P	P	P	D/P	P
ANTH 203 (C)	D/P	D/P	P	P	D/P	P
ANTH 205 (C)	D/P	D/P	P	P	D/P	P
ANTH 207 (C)	D/P	D/P	P	P	D/P	P
100-level electives (E)	D/P	D/P	D/P	D/P	D	D/P
200-level electives (E)	P	P	P	P	D/P	P
Preliminary Exam	P	P	P/M	P	D	P/M
Prospectus	M	M	M	M	P/M	P/M
Thesis (ANTH 500)	M	M	M	M	P/M	M

C (core), E (elective)

### D. Assessment Plan

1. Program learning outcomes will be assessed in core courses, elective seminars, and elective upper-division lecture courses most immediately by the instructor of record during course instruction. Most coursework is completed prior to advancing to candidacy. Instructors of core courses are expected to evaluate junior graduate students and identify deficiencies previously not acknowledged at admission early in the course. Faculty of each subdiscipline will evaluate respective core course syllabi and anonymously review student core coursework periodically.
2. Program learning outcomes will be assessed through the preliminary exam prior to advancement to candidacy. The exam responses are evaluated by faculty of the subdiscipline. Deficiencies in responses will be evaluated to determine whether core and elective graduate seminar course materials need to be adjusted.
3. Program learning outcomes will be assessed through the student's ability to communicate thesis objectives, literature review, and proposed methodologies in a thesis prospectus prior to advancement to candidacy. The prospectus is evaluated by the thesis committee.
4. Program learning outcomes will be assessed through the student's ability to complete original research proposed in the thesis prospectus.
5. Program learning outcomes will indirectly be assessed by the graduate committee by periodically evaluating the program via alumni surveys and/or data on post-graduation success (e.g., positions in cultural resource management, museums, tribal preservation offices, non-profits; ability to enter into doctoral programs, if desired).

### **E. Action Plan based on Assessment Data**

As no assessment data has been collected as of Spring 2016, it is not yet possible to develop an assessment plan in response to observed strengths and weaknesses of the program. The program will look at future assessment data and respond accordingly.