

Anthropology Degree Assessment Plan 2009

1. Objectives of the Anthropology Program

The Bachelor of Arts degree program in Anthropology at IU South Bend and IU Northwest is constructed to teach students how to pursue the holistic study of human beings, including the nature and origins of their cultural and biological diversity. Anthropology as a discipline promotes critical thinking about ourselves, our evolutionary history, our society, and our relationships with other peoples and societies within the broader global framework. It teaches its adherents to observe keenly and participate consciously in the world around them. Through exploring how diverse peoples and cultures--past and present--have handled common human problems (providing for subsistence, creating families, keeping social order, governing, etc.), students learn to expand their repertoire of possible solutions for local, regional, national, and global problems.

By its very nature, anthropology is interdisciplinary. The proposed program highlights this focus by requiring majors to begin their studies with core courses that introduce students to the key concepts of the four subfields of anthropology (biological anthropology, cultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, and archaeology). Students continue their program by taking more advanced courses in at least three of the four subfields to learn key substantive issues and debates. They will also develop knowledge of the appropriate theory and research methods and techniques. Finally, they demonstrate their competency in connecting theory with practice through the final capstone course.

2. Student Learning Goals

The graduate of the Bachelor degree program in Anthropology will:

- a. Understand human social, biological, and cultural diversity through being exposed to the most recent scholarship in anthropology,
- b. Develop ability to voice and provide substantive evidence for their own opinions and bring others into a respectful dialogue,
- c. Acquire the methodological tools necessary for anthropological investigation,
- d. Acquire the knowledge required to understand the unique context, problems, and opportunities of their own communities and to place them in global perspective, and
- e. Demonstrated his/her own capacity to integrate knowledge, theory, and method as a creator of knowledge through original scholarship, research and/or creative activity.

3. Assessment Techniques and Responses

The assessment plan for the anthropology major will rely on both direct and indirect measures of student learning and program effectiveness. Direct measures of student learning will include course-embedded assessment (e.g. exams, essays) and a student portfolio that will include examples of graded student work: the three core anthropology courses, the theory course, the methods course, and the final capstone course project paper, as well as any products from student presentations or publications. Indirect measures of student learning will include course evaluations, an exit survey of graduating students, follow-up surveys with our alumni at one, five, and ten years post graduation, and post graduation outcomes for our graduates (e.g., professional employment, graduate school placement). A primary factor in successful student learning is the effort provided by faculty. All courses and B.A. Degree in Anthropology IU South Bend and IU Northwest professors will be evaluated by the students. In addition, faculty will regularly meet to discuss class content and methods of instruction. The program of instruction will be adjusted in response to these evaluations and conversations.

The student portfolio will be used to assess how well the major program is meeting the student learning goals:

- a. Students will develop an understanding of human social, biological, and cultural diversity while being exposed to the most recent scholarship in anthropology.
- b. Students will be able to voice and provide substantive evidence for their own opinions and bring others into a respectful dialogue.
- c. Students will learn the methodological tools necessary for anthropological investigation.
- d. Students will acquire the knowledge required to understand the unique context, problems, and opportunities of their own communities and to place them in global perspective.
- e. Students will demonstrate their own capacity to integrate knowledge, theory, and method as creators of knowledge through original scholarship, research and/or creative activity.

The following chart details how each learning goal is linked to specific courses within the curriculum in order to ascertain whether or not students are meeting the expected learning goals.

Portfolio Composition Mapped to Student Learning Goals

Measures	Goal 1: to develop an understanding of human social, biological, and cultural diversity while being exposed to the most recent scholarship in anthropology	Goal 2: to voice and provide substantive evidence for their own opinions and bring others into a respectful dialogue.	Goal 3: to learn the methodological tools necessary for anthropological investigation	Goal 4: to acquire the knowledge required to understand the unique context, problems, and opportunities of their own communities and to place them in global perspective	Goal 5: to demonstrate a capacity to integrate knowledge, theory, and method as creators of knowledge through original scholarship, research and/or creative activity.
Portfolio composed of student work from ANTH required courses (B200, L200, E200, P200, A360, senior capstone course, and methods)	Work from B200, L200, P200, E200, capstone course, and performance in anthropology elective courses	Work from all courses sampled in the portfolio	Work from methods course and capstone course	Work from all courses sampled in the portfolio	Work from Capstone course and any student presentations or publications
Use of the Information	Data are reported to the department annually by the instructors of the core courses and are reviewed by the departmental assessment committee. Annual reports are submitted to the IU South Bend Academic Senate/Academic Affairs Assessment Committee or the IU Northwest Faculty Organization Assessment Committee. Every three years, representatives from the department submit a written report and discuss the results of assessment (changes in courses, in the major, in advising, and so on.) with Assessment Committee members. The results of these annual and three year reports at IU South Bend are posted on the Assessment Committee web page (http://www.iusb.edu/~sbassess). The department supports instructors in making course-based changes, takes appropriate program-level actions, and reports outcomes to the Dean in our annual report. All data are reviewed as part of the program's regular external review.				

The administrators of the major on each campus will conduct an exit assessment survey of all graduates each year. The members of the Anthropology faculty will meet with graduating seniors as a group to have a conversation about their experience in the program. Students will be asked to discuss how well they believe they have met the program's goals. They will also be asked for recommendations for what the program could do differently in order to enhance student learning.

At one, five, and ten years after graduation, a survey will be distributed to program alumni. The survey will explore: employment after graduation; use of degree in current employment; further graduate study; perceptions of quality and usefulness of academic preparation; suggested areas for improvement in the program given their subsequent experiences in the field; and any other suggestions for improvements. This information will be reported to the Assessment Committees on both campuses and will be used by faculty to monitor and update the curriculum as necessary. The alumni will also be tracked as to their achievements in graduate schools and the realization of employment. We will solicit feedback from employers and community members to ascertain the current demands of the anthropological workforce and the degree to which students are prepared to meet these demands.

In general, the success of this program will be evaluated by the quantity and quality of the graduates it produces.