



DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

The Anthropology curriculum is designed to ensure that each student receives a broad background in the discipline. Additionally, the program is built for each student to have the flexibility to specialize in their particular interest through further coursework. A major requirement is that all students complete at least six credits in research methods. The research methods courses in the Department of Anthropology provide the opportunity for students to demonstrate learning outcomes in the areas of content knowledge, communication skills, and critical thinking in a variety of contexts. These research methods courses are:

- ANT 4116 (Archaeological Research Methods)
- ANT 4192 (Research Methods in Bioarchaeology)
- ANT 4495 (Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology)
- ANT 4802 (Ethnographic Fieldwork)
- ANT 4824 (Fieldwork in Archaeology)
- ANT 4905 (Directed Independent Study)
- ANT 4917/4918 (Directed Independent Research)

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Declarative Knowledge): Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major concepts, theories, and methods of each of the three subdisciplines: archaeology, biological anthropology, and cultural anthropology.

Assessment of students will be based on demonstration of satisfactory or better performance (on average) on exams, papers, and other coursework for two upperdivision courses in each of three subdisciplines (archaeology, biological anthropology, and cultural anthropology) for individual graduating students. Refer to the degree requirements for a list of these courses.

COMMUNICATION (Written Communication): Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate anthropological knowledge in written form. Depending on topic, students will produce written work in conformity with the publication guidelines of the American Association of Physical Anthropology, the American Anthropological Association, or the Society for American Archaeology.

Each student will complete six credit hours in anthropology research methods courses for which in-depth papers (10 pages or more) are required and in which the successful student is evaluated “satisfactory” or better on such papers.

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Declarative Knowledge): Students demonstrate knowledge of the major vocabulary, concepts, theories, and arguments associated with a research question or topic.

Assessment of students will be based on demonstration of satisfactory or better performance on literature review and research significance sections (or equivalents) of research papers or laboratory reports in research methods courses.

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Research Skills): Students will demonstrate the ability to apply basic data collection strategies and methodologies to anthropological research projects based on library research, field research, or laboratory research.

Assessment of students will be based on demonstration of satisfactory or better performance on methodology sections of research papers or laboratory reports in research methods courses.

CRITICAL THINKING (Analytical Skills): Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct library or field-based research on an anthropological topic that demonstrates critical, analytical (qualitative and/or quantitative), or technical skills.

Assessment of students will be based on demonstration of satisfactory or better performance on analysis sections (or equivalents) of research papers or laboratory reports in research methods courses.



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The Anthropology graduate curriculum provides students with a strong foundation in the discipline. The curriculum ensures that graduate students are exposed to anthropological theory, quantitative methods, biological anthropology, cultural anthropology, and archaeology. The degree is primarily research-based, as students produce original MA theses. The process of moving toward the MA degree depends not only on successful course completion, but relies heavily on producing and defending a research proposal, carrying out data collection, analysis and write up of results, as well as production of the thesis. The MA/MAT degree prepares graduates to move either toward the Ph.D. or into the workforce, with the potential to use the knowledge gained in the pursuit of the degree.

Content Knowledge (Declarative Knowledge), Communication (Written Communication, Oral Communicatoin), Critical Thinking (Analytic Skills): Demonstrate professional-level competence in one of the subfields of anthropology: archaeology, biological anthropology, or sociocultural anthropology. The student is required to write and to make a public research proposal defense, at which competence in the proposed field of inquiry must be demonstrated in terms of: written communication, oral communication, theoretical and methodological appropriateness, and a productive analytic framework.

Content Knowlege (Declarative Knowledge), Communication (Written Communication, Oral Communicatoin), Critical Thinking (Analytic Skills): Demonstrate professional-level initiative in research activities, as shown by presentation of papers at professional meetings or by publications. The student is encouraged to present research results at academic conferences and/or in publication. The number of such outcomes is tracked.

Critical Thinking (Practical Skills), Communication (Oral/Written), Content Knowledge: Utilize the degree earned in subsequent professional activities. Program graduates are tracked in terms of doctoral program entry and employment status.