

2017-2018 Assessment Cycle COLA_Anthropology BA

Mission (due 12/4/17)

University Mission

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette offers an exceptional education informed by diverse worldviews grounded in tradition, heritage, and culture. We develop leaders and innovators who advance knowledge, cultivate aesthetic sensibility, and improve the human condition.

University Values

We strive to create a community of leaders and innovators in an environment that fosters a desire to advance and disseminate knowledge. We support the mission of the university by actualizing our core values of equity, integrity, intellectual curiosity, creativity, tradition, transparency, respect, collaboration, pluralism, and sustainability.

University Vision

We strive to be included in the top 25% of our peer institutions by 2020, improving our national and international status and recognition.

College / VP and Program / Department Mission

Mission of College or VP-area

Provide the mission for the College or VP-area in the space provided. If none is available, write "None Available in 2017-2018."

The College of Liberal Arts is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge through teaching, research, and service. The College teaches students to think critically, applying scientific principles and intellectual schema to understand human behavior and society in a diverse world, to express ideas and ideals in a variety of forms, and to understand themselves and others as members of regional and global communities. The intellectual and creative foundations of this enterprise are written and oral communication, analytical and reasoning skills, and the ability to solve problems creatively. Each departmental curriculum presents perspectives from the past, provides an understanding of the present and directs attention to the challenges of the future. As active researchers, faculty in the College work to advance the frontiers of knowledge and our understanding of humanity and the world we live in, and to use that knowledge and understanding to improve the human condition.

Mission of Program / Department

Provide the program / department mission in the space provided. The mission statement should concisely define the purpose, functions, and key constituents. If none is available, write "None Available in 2017-2018."

The Anthropology Program's mission is to provide students with a broad, behavioral science and liberal arts education based on the methodologies, theories, perspectives and cumulative findings of the anthropological sub-fields. The Anthropology Program strives to enhance student's awareness of human diversity and diverse worldviews through education in culture, language, the archaeological past, and human biology and evolution. Anthropology endeavors to develop leaders who advance knowledge and work to improve the human condition. In fulfilling its mission, the purposes of the Anthropology program are to prepare anthropology majors for careers and post-baccalaureate studies, and to provide students with anthropological knowledge, perspective, and understanding.

Attachment (optional)

Upload any documents which support the program / department assessment process.

Assessment Plan (due 12/4/17)

Assessment Plan (Goals / Objectives, Assessment Measures and Criteria for Success)

Assessment List

Goal/Objective	Students will acquire research proficiency in anthropological methods of data collection, analysis, application, and interpretation. Proficiency in anthropological field methods is associated with achieving applied research skills in the social sciences, including cross-cultural analysis and interpretation, anthropological linguistics, human biological variation and evolution, and understanding the temporal and spatial dimensions of the human condition. Students will attain competence in skills and techniques of data collection, analysis, application, and interpretation. Student access and participation will be facilitated through Forensic Anthropology (ANTH430), Biorachaeology (ANTH435), Heritage and Habitat (ANTH465), Cultural Resource Management (ANTH 480G), the Archaeology Field School (ANTH 490G), Research in Cultural Anthropology (ANTH491G), Archaeological Records (ANTH 499G), and through internships or independent studies (ANTH 497 and 498: Special Projects).(Imported)								
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	Third, a Topics in Anthropology (ANTH320) course was added to the curriculum to allow for alternative topics related to current events or student interests, to draw in more non-majors and increase their awareness of anthropology and anthropological thinking. Fourth, transition the temporary instructor position to a full instructor or professor position to allow the program to continue to grow and develop to better serve the students, the university, and the community.(Imported)														
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Goal/Objective	The innate human capacity for language is a central focus of anthropology and one of its four sub-fields. A more comprehensive, anthropological understanding of humans will be pursued through the expansion of Linguistic Anthropology in the Anthropology program. Transition the temporary hire position into a full instructor position to allow for the continuation of four-field teaching at UL Lafayette.(Imported)											
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Goal/Objective	Communication and writing skills are essential for any career. Students will develop their ability to identify a research topic, conduct research identifying appropriate primary resources, synthesizing the data, and writing a final paper through writing assignments in the 400-level courses offered in anthropology.(Imported)								
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Program / Department Assessment Narrative

The primary purpose of assessment is to use data to inform decisions and improve programs (student learning) and departments (operations); this is an on-going process of defining goals and expectations, collecting results, analyzing data, comparing current and past results and initiatives, and making decisions based on these reflections. In the space below, describe the program's or department's overall plan for improving student learning and/or operations (the "assessment plan"). Consider the following:

- 1) What strategies exist to assess the outcomes?
- 2) What does the program/department expect to achieve with the goals and objectives identified above?
- 3) How might prior or current initiatives (improvements) influence the anticipated outcomes this year?
- 4) What is the plan for using data to improve student learning and/or operations?
- 5) How will data be shared within the Program/Department (and, where appropriate, the College/VP-area)?

Assessment Process

Our program attempts to alternate which courses are reviewed to assess that outcomes are being met across the board and not just in certain faculty's courses. Overall the program hopes to raise awareness and interest in anthropology. Going beyond this we hope to help students understand the use of anthropology in daily life. Prior initiatives should increase enrollment in higher level courses and should help improve writing outcomes for students. The data will be used to evaluate where more courses or seats could be offered or where more writing efforts should be focused. The data will be shared through discussions in program meetings.

Results & Improvements (due 9/15/18)

Results and Improvement Narratives

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		met.		
Direct - Standardized Test	Has the criterion Success will be measured and assessed based on average learning outcomes rated according to a four point scale: (4) excellent, (3) above average, (2) average, (1) unsatisfactory. Attainment of this objective will be regarded as successfully achieved the average score of the student sample is 3.0 or higher. been met yet? Met	Two classes were selected for review, ANTH100 Intro to Anthropology and ANTH202 Intro to Biological Anthropology. Both classes had an average score of a 3 for the semester based on test scores for each course.		- Assessment Process: Data Collection changed: This will be modified to correspond with the General Education assessment criterion, in that the ANTH100 class will be reviewed as this course covers all of the fields of Anthropology and is an entry level course. Therefore learning outcomes would best represent raising awareness of anthropology.
Direct - Faculty Hire (Other)	Has the criterion Attainment of this objective will be regarded as successfully achieved when a full-time position is created for an instructor or assistant professor. been met yet? Met	A full time instructor was hired to start in the Fall 2018 semester. The addition of this full-time position gives the program more freedom in offering courses to raise awareness of the discipline. Ultimately this criterion ties in with the other criterion in this objective as this instructor teaches ANTH100 and 201. It is felt that the newly selected instructor will bring new and exciting perspectives to these courses and continue to raise awareness and interest in the discipline.		

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Assessment List Findings for the Assessment Measure level for The innate human capacity for language is a central focus of anthropology and one of its four sub-fields. A more comprehensive, anthropological understanding of humans will be pursued through the expansion of Linguistic Anthropology in the Anthropology program. Transition the temporary hire position into a full instructor position to allow for the continuation of four-field teaching at UL Lafayette.(Imported)

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	Direct - Full position (Other)		Attainment of this objective will be regarded as successfully achieved when a full time position is created.		
Assessment Findings	Assessment Measure	Criterion	Summary	Attachments of the Assessments	Improvement Narratives
	Direct - Enrollment (Other)	Has the criterion Success will be measured and assessed based on the enrollment in Linguistic Anthropology (ANTH390) been met yet? Met	This criterion was met as 18 of 20 seats (90%) were enrolled for this course. This is up 3 seats from previous semesters.		- Assessment Process: Continuous monitoring: The seat limit will continue to be raised as 300-level courses typically have 30 students in them. The program will also continue to advertise this course to other disciplines in an effort to raise awareness of the course and its relationship to other disciplines.

	<p>Direct - Full position (Other)</p>	<p>Has the criterion Attainment of this objective will be regarded as successfully achieved when a full time position is created. been met yet? Met</p>	<p>A full-time instructor was hired to start in Fall 2018. This will allow for a more focused effort on expansion of the Linguistic Anthropology portion of the program as commitment of the university to this program is evident and the faculty can now feel confident in the investment of time and effort towards course development. The permanence of this position may also make cross-discipline/inter-departmental course building and advertisement possible as other faculty also feel more confident in investing time and effort into the courses and collaborations connected to this program.</p>	<p>- Assessment Process: Goals / Outcomes / Objectives changed: The linguistic anthropology component of the anthropology program is limited to one course (ANTH390). Going forward the new goal is the expansion of courses offered that are related to Linguistic Anthropology, either as the addition of permanent courses or the cycling of temporary courses to assess student interest.</p>
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Assessment List Findings for the Assessment Measure level for Communication and writing skills are essential for any career. Students will develop their ability to identify a research topic, conduct research identifying appropriate primary resources, synthesizing the data, and writing a final paper through writing assignments in the 400-level courses offered in anthropology.(Imported)

<p>Goal/Objective</p>	<p>Communication and writing skills are essential for any career. Students will develop their ability to identify a research topic, conduct research identifying appropriate primary resources, synthesizing the data, and writing a final paper through writing assignments in the 400-level courses offered in anthropology.(Imported)</p>			
<p>Legends</p>	<p>SLO - Student Learning Outcome/Objective (academic units);</p>			
<p>Standards/Outcomes</p>				
<p>Assessment Measures</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="370 1902 589 1969"> <p>Assessment Measure</p> </td> <td data-bbox="589 1902 1547 1969"> <p>Criterion</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Assessment Measure</p>	<p>Criterion</p>
<p>Assessment Measure</p>	<p>Criterion</p>			

	Direct - Written Assignment	Fall 2017 this will be assessed in Bioarchaeology (ANTH435). Success will be measured and assessed based on average learning outcomes as demonstrated in a final paper graded based on the attached rubric rated according to a four point scale: (4) excellent, (3) above average, (2) average, (1) unsatisfactory. Attainment of this objective will be regarded as successfully achieved when the average score of the student sample is 3.0 or higher.			
Assessment Findings					
	Assessment Measure	Criterion	Summary	Attachments of the Assessments	Improvement Narratives
Direct - Written Assignment	Has the criterion Fall 2017 this will be assessed in Bioarchaeology (ANTH435). Success will be measured and assessed based on average learning outcomes as demonstrated in a final paper graded based on the attached rubric rated according to a four point scale: (4) excellent, (3) above average, (2) average, (1) unsatisfactory. Attainment of this objective will be regarded as successfully achieved when the average score of the student sample is 3.0 or higher. been met yet? Met	Of the 12 students that completed the final paper, 7 earned a 4, 2 earned a 3, and 2 earned a 2 on the scale. The average is a 3.1. The rubric provided seemed to assist many students in assessing their work prior to submission. This resulted in improved rough draft submissions compared to previous semesters, which then resulted in improved final papers. As a whole it was noted that the writing skill of the anthropology majors, or those non-majors that have taken several upper level anthropology courses, was generally at a higher level than other non-majors participating in the course,		- Assessment Process: Continuous monitoring: As this is an extremely important skill that has been repeatedly identified by faculty of all disciplines across campus as needing improvement, it is felt that this measure should continue to be monitored. One of the 400-level courses will be selected in Fall (2018) or Spring (2019) to review to assess communication and writing skills.	

			suggesting that as a whole across the anthropology program writing is a focus and is having an impact on student outcomes.		
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Assessment List Findings for the Assessment Measure level for Increase number of Anthropology majors.(Imported)

Goal/Objective	Increase number of Anthropology majors.(Imported)				
Legends	PO - Program Objective (academic units);				
Standards/Outcomes					
Assessment Measures	Assessment Measure		Criterion		
	Direct - Majors (Other)		Success will be measured and assessed based on the number of students with Anthropology as their major. Attainment of this objective will be regarded as successfully achieved when the number of majors has reached 45.		
Assessment Findings	Assessment Measure	Criterion	Summary	Attachments of the Assessments	Improvement Narratives
	Direct - Majors (Other)	Has the criterion Success will be measured and assessed based on the number of students with Anthropology as their major. Attainment of this objective will be regarded as successfully achieved when the number of majors has reached 45. been met yet? Met	There are currently approximately 90 students who have Anthropology listed as their major.		- Assessment Process: Continuous monitoring: Anthropology has not seen a leap in majors like this, this is unprecedented. Therefore this measure will continue to be monitored at the current level. If this number continues the measure will be raised. This is viewed with cautious optimism.

Reflection (Due 9/15/18)

Reflection

The primary purpose of assessment is to use data to inform decisions and improve programs and operations; this is an on-going process of defining goals and expectations, collecting results, analyzing data, comparing current and past results and initiatives, and making decisions based on these reflections. Recalling this purpose, respond to the questions below.

1) How were assessment results shared in the program / department?

Please select all that apply. If "other", please use the text box to elaborate.

Distributed via email

Presented formally at staff / department / committee meetings

Discussed informally (selected)

Other (explain in text box below)

Discussed informally among the faculty for review and interpretation.

2) How frequently were assessment results shared?

Frequently (>4 times per cycle)

Periodically (2-4 times per cycle)

Once per cycle (selected)

Results were not shared this cycle

3) With whom were assessment results shared?

Please select all that apply.

Department Head (selected)

Dean / Asst. or Assoc. Dean (selected)

Departmental assessment committee (selected)

Other faculty / staff

4) Consider the impact of prior applied changes. Specifically, compare current results to previous results to evaluate the impact of a previously reported change. Demonstrate how the use of results improved student learning and/or operations.

There are two major findings of interest in this cycle, first the hiring of a full time instructor in linguistic anthropology. This demonstrates that the growing interest in the program warrants the addition of another faculty member and this allows for continued program growth. The second finding is the steep rise in the number of majors, with only ~40 in previous semesters now having ~90. The list of majors does include a few seniors who have graduated which has been removed to come up with 90, in addition some of the students are double majors, so when they graduate Anthropology may not "get the credit" if the other major is listed first. However, this rise in numbers is still significant and demonstrates that our efforts to raise awareness about anthropology through the student society, ANTH100, new course offerings, etc are being successful.

5) Over the past three assessment cycles, what has been the overall impact of "closing the loop"? Provide examples of improvements in student learning, program quality, or department operations that are directly linked

to assessment data and follow-up analysis.

New faculty have become more directly involved in the process resulting in more awareness of the programs goals and measures. This has helped with course planning and assessment, making the process more fruitful. For example, more careful selection and advertisement of course offerings as resulted in a rise in percentage of course enrollments. Further, recruitment has resulted in a rise in majors. Greater effort has been put into developing rubrics to assist students in understanding writing expectations, which has resulted in a rise in student writing quality.

Attachments (optional)

Upload any documents which support the program / department assessment process.