

**Program Assessment: Annual Report**

**Program(s): Anthropology**

**Department: Sociology & Anthropology**

**College/School: Arts and Sciences**

**Date: June 23, 2020**

**Primary Assessment Contact: Joel Jennings, Undergraduate Director**

1. Which program student learning outcomes were assessed in this annual assessment cycle?

This year we assessed our first goal: Anthropology majors will demonstrate an understanding of theory in social analysis. Learning outcomes:

- a) describe the role of theory in building anthropological knowledge
- b) compare and contrast basic theoretical orientations; or, identify assumptions in analyses and argument.
- c) apply theories to examples or situations

This is the fourth year the anthropology program has implemented an assessment under its revised plan. We used committee review of the capstone projects of graduating seniors as a direct measure of learning outcomes and complemented that with exit interviews and surveys of graduating seniors as indirect measures of our goal. The capstone papers and exit interviews were reviewed by a faculty committee and a summary report was prepared as scheduled during June. This summary report will be presented to all departmental faculty members for review and discussion at the annual faculty retreat at the end of August, 2020. Madrid is not involved in this assessment.

Capstone papers were used for this evaluation. As Capstone papers are researched for a written and oral presentation formats, they fit the assessment learning outcome goals quite well.

2. What data/artifacts of student learning were collected for each assessed outcome? Were Madrid student artifacts included?

We analyzed a randomly selected sample of 3 Capstone papers. These Capstone papers were empirical works that were guided by individual faculty members and overseen by an instructor of record in the Anthropology division.

Madrid artifacts were not included. (That campus does not have an Anthropology major at this time; we will share our findings with them and invite dialogue, however.)

3. How did you analyze the assessment data? What was the process? Who was involved?

**NOTE: If you used rubrics as part of your analysis, please include them in an appendix.**

Direct Methods:

1) During June 2020, a committee (Dr. Mary Vermillion and Dr. Bruce O'Neill) evaluated a sample of Capstone papers (3 of 12) using a rubric that focused on the four learning objectives. (Appendix 1.1).

Indirect Methods:

This year we were unable to conduct our exit interviews with graduating seniors. The transition to on-line instruction in the second half of the semester interrupted our

4. What did you learn from the data? Summarize the major findings of your analysis for each assessed outcome.

**NOTE: If necessary, include any tables, charts, or graphs in an appendix.**

Average scores for learning outcomes (N/A = not applicable to paper topic)

a)  $(2+2+5+1.5 + 1.5 + 5) = 15.5/6=2.83$

b)  $(3+2+5 + 1.5 + 3.5 + 4.5) = 19.5/6=3.25$

c)  $(3+5+5 + 1.5 + 4.5 + 5) = 24/6=4.0$

a) describe the role of theory in building anthropological knowledge

b) compare and contrast basic theoretical orientations; or, identify assumptions in analyses and argument.

c) apply theories to examples or situations

The committee reported poor outcomes in terms of two of the learning objectives, and somewhat positive outcomes in terms of one learning outcome. Reviewers noted on several occasions that COVID-19 disrupted many of the research projects. It was also noted that faculty supervising capstones were not aware of these specific goals prior to advising students. Indeed, there are many ways to write a good anthropological research paper, some of which do not include such things as explicitly stating the role of theory in Anthropology. Nevertheless, students did demonstrate some skill in applying theory (outcome (c)). Overall, the committee found that the students need additional guidance in the area of theory (see Appendix 1.4).

5. How did your analysis inform meaningful change? How did you *use the analyzed data to make or implement recommendations for change* in pedagogy, curriculum design, or your assessment plan?

The quantitative data suggest that Anthropology program may need to reassess its learning outcomes around theory, if this problem persists in the absence of COVID-19 disruptions. Our findings in this assessment suggest that Anthropology students are comfortable applying anthropological theory, but not necessarily framing its importance nor comparing and contrasting different theoretical perspectives, nor in describing theory building in anthropological theory.

6. Did you follow up (“close the loop”) on past assessment work? If so, what did you learn? (*For example, has that curriculum change you made two years ago manifested in improved student learning today, as evidenced in your recent assessment data and analysis?*)

The Anthropology program assessment protocol is a three-step process. We are currently in Year 1 (again). As such, we have completed a cycle of assessment. This year we also restructured the Anthropology minor based on qualitative feedback that we received in previous years.

***IMPORTANT: Please submit any revised/updated assessment plans to the University Assessment Coordinator along with this report.***

Rubric for Assessing Goal #1

Paper # \_\_\_\_\_

1) Does the student describe the role of theory in building anthropological knowledge?

Poor		Adequate		Excellent
1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

2) Does the student compare and contrast basic theoretical orientations; or, identify assumptions in analyses and arguments?

Poor		Adequate		Excellent
1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

3) Does the student apply theories to examples or situations?

Poor		Adequate		Excellent
1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

### Appendix 1.4: Quantitative Anthropology Assessment (2020)

Name	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Comments and Possible Recommendations
Student: 1				
Bruce	1.5	1.5	1.5	
Mary	2.0	3.0	5	
Student: 2				
Bruce	1.5	3.5	4.5	
Mary	2	2	5	
Student: 3				
Bruce	5	4.5	5	
Mary	5	5	3	
	<b>17</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>24</b>	
	<b>2.83</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>4.0</b>	
1=unacceptable 3=adequate 5=excellent		Outcome 1= describe the role of theory in building anthropological knowledge Outcome 2= compare and contrast basic theoretical orientations; or, identify assumptions in analyses and argument. Outcome 3= apply theories to examples or situations		