

Department of Anthropology

2008-09

Mission

The goal of the Anthropology program, appropriate to the discipline, is to teach students to understand and appreciate the origin, evolution, and present diversity of human biology and culture. This is achieved by using a holistic approach covering basic subject areas, namely, archaeology, cultural, physical/biological, and applied anthropology to fulfill the Department of Anthropology's Learning Objectives.

Program Goals

1. Expose students to a broad variety of teaching and research practices in the four sub-fields of anthropology to foster awareness of the complexity and comparative nature of anthropology, in which humans are studied as both biological and cultural beings.
2. Provide cross-cultural information, which has important implications for human organization, cultural understanding and living among diverse societies in an increasingly complex and interdependent global environment.
3. Provide both core and general education courses to facilitate options for various programs, including the Anthropology major and minor, the Liberal Studies Concentration, single subject teaching credential, and post baccalaureate/interdisciplinary M.A. program.
4. Provide education which gives students a broad and informed knowledge base as well as the conceptual and analytical skills necessary for graduate school, professional training, and careers in diverse fields including research, teaching, administration, development work and related areas requiring insights into the concept of culture.

Student Learning objectives

1. Master key concepts within the field of anthropology by acquiring an understanding of and an appreciation for the holistic relationship between culture and biology that is central to the 4-field discipline of anthropology.
2. Develop key general and specific skills including writing, research, analytical reasoning, critical thinking, public speaking, and computer skills as demonstrated in coursework and co-curricular activities, such as field work, service learning projects, and public presentation of research results.
3. Cultivate a global awareness through the study of diversity within and across geographic regions to demonstrate a nuanced awareness of the increasing interdependency among societies around the world.
4. Demonstrate competency in specific skills required to produce meaningful research results in one or more of the subfields of anthropology. These skills encompass both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis techniques and may include research methods appropriate to ethnographic/participant observation, data analysis, statistical analysis, forensics, and archaeological fieldwork.
5. Understand and apply anthropological theories and methods to real world problems through the internships, service learning projects, field work, research projects, or study abroad experience required of all majors.
6. Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the theoretical orientations and history of anthropological thought.

The Assessment Plan formulated and approved by the Anthropology Program faculty includes the implementation of the following assessment measures on an annual basis: