

Anthropology Master of Arts Degree Program Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan

Student Learning Outcomes

The Anthropology department offers three tracks for Masters Degree students. The applied anthropology track allows students to learn about the discipline of anthropology and then use their knowledge in practical projects in non-profit or governmental contexts. The research track allows students to develop a research project in one of the four fields of anthropology (linguistics, socio-cultural, physical anthropology, and archeology) culminating in a University Thesis. The third track educates students broadly in all four fields, with an emphasis on two of the fields, culminating in comprehensive exams.

Student Learning Outcomes shared by all Anthropology MA students:

1. Students will become familiar with and understand the history of anthropology, the body of anthropological theory, how the four fields of anthropology intersect, and current debates in the discipline.
2. Students will understand how anthropology has been and can be used in practice beyond the scope of academic research.
3. Students will develop professional-level, in-depth knowledge of two or more subdisciplines within anthropology (including applied anthropology).
4. Students will develop the ability to conduct research and compose high-quality reports or papers on their own.

Assessment Plan:

SLO 1: This SLO will be assessed in two ways. The same test of basic theory used for undergraduate assessment will be administered to incoming MA students and exiting MA students. In addition, student performance in the basic MA seminars (6100, 6200, 6400, 6800) will be used to assess student grasp of current debates.

SLO 2: All MA students are required to take ANTH 6700, Seminar in Applied Anthropology. Student performance in this class, including the final project, will be used to assess this SLO. The final project in ANTH 6700 is designed to engage students in a practical exercise in planning an applied project (including research, project development, and initial funding investigation).

SLO 3: Students in both the research and the comprehensive exam tracks take a minimum of three seminars (covering three of the four subfields in anthropology). Students in the applied anthropology track take at least one of these four seminars. SLOs for students in the comprehensive exam track will be assessed using the comprehensive exams in two subfields. Students in the research track and the applied anthropology track will be assessed using the student's thesis for one subfield, and seminar performance for the other subfield.

SLO 4: The assessment of this SLO will vary depending upon the track the student is engaged in. Students in the applied anthropology track will produce a departmental thesis describing and analyzing their internship experience. Students in the research

track will produce a University Thesis. In these two tracks, theses will be the basis for assessment of this SLO. Students in the comprehensive exams track take exams in two subfields. The exams, along with papers submitted in the associated graduate-level seminars, will be the basis for assessment of this SLO.