2016 ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

Learning Objectives

Students who complete the M.S. Degree in Anthropology with an emphasis in Cultural Resource Management in Archaeology will be able to:

1. Identify core methods and theories as practiced in contemporary archaeology and applied to cultural   resource management in the western U.S.
2. Evaluate, apply and critique research designs in a variety of archaeological contexts.
3. Apply methods and theories with the goal of creating new knowledge through hypothesis testing and problem solving and presentation of research and scholarship in professional venues, including professional conferences and publications.

Assessment Plan

The Assessment Plan involves collecting data on the following:

1. Learning objective specific measures
   a. Students' grades in all master's level courses (core and elective classes).
   b. Pre- and post-semester learning assessments in courses.

2. Student participation in research activities.
   a. Student participation in presenting original research at local, regional and national conferences
   b. Students authoring or co-authoring publications in peer-reviewed journals, edited volumes and research reports
   c. Student completion of a master's thesis of original work in six or fewer semesters.

3. In addition to these objective-specific measures, the M.S. Degree in Anthropology uses the following tools to measure progress towards our broad learning objectives.
   a. Course evaluations: The SSWA Department Head reviews course evaluations to assess the effectiveness of faculty in the classroom, with special attention both to the overall quality of each class and to student feedback in relation to program learning objectives. Special attention will be given to the analysis of items 21-30 on each class-specific IDEA diagnostic form report
   b. Post-graduate employment in archaeology.
   c. Continuation to Ph.D. level program in the field.

Outcomes Data

Report the outcomes data for each of the assessment data collection points listed above. All data document program outcomes to date.

1. Number and percent of students presenting original research at local, regional and national conferences.

      a. 12 of 21 (57%) or students have presented at conferences.

2. Number and percent of students authoring or co-authoring publications in peer-reviewed journals, edited volumes and research reports.

      a. Six of 21 (29%) students have authored or co-authored publications in peer-reviewed journals, edited volumes and research reports

3. Number and percent of students completing a master's thesis of original work in six or fewer semesters, of students who have graduated.

      a. 11 of 21 (56%) students have completed a master's thesis of original work in six or fewer semesters

4. Number and percent of students employed in archaeology and/or continuing to Ph.D. level programs.

      a. All of our graduates (100%) either have employment in archaeology, a related field and/or continued to Ph.D. level program.

Data-driven Decisions:

Based on the data provided above, the Anthropology M.S. program is enabling students to achieve the learning objectives we have identified. We have implemented, or are considering implementing, the following policies to further enhance students' abilities to achieve the learning objectives in a timely, efficient, and productive manner.

1. Requiring a "B" grade or higher in all master's courses.
2. Implementing pre- and post-semester learning assessments: in select courses, students take learning assessments to evaluate prior knowledge. Courses where pre- and post-assessment measures are employed include: ANTH 6340, 6350, 6360, 6390.
3. Standardizing and streamlining the comprehensive exam policy.
4. Revising graduate handbook to reflect current state of program offerings in terms of available resources. This includes, but is not limited to, updating the list of faculty and their interests, updating the programs requirements and updating the list of courses and their content.