

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
 Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan
 Draft
M.A. in Anthropology
 College of Liberal Arts
 October 1, 2013

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose	Intended Objectives/Outcomes	Assessment Criteria and Procedures	Implementation (what, when, who)
<p>MISSION STATEMENT: The UAF Department of Anthropology is committed to scholarship and research in anthropology with a general geographic focus on the circumpolar regions of the north as well as research and instruction covering a variety of world areas and topical subjects. The teaching and research activities in the department cover the four subfields of the discipline: archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistic and social/cultural anthropology. The graduate program offers students the opportunity to concentrate study in one of the four subfields, to gain research experience and methodological training in the field and in the laboratory, and emphasizes empirical and applied studies.</p> <p>GOAL STATEMENT: To assure that graduates are prepared to mobilize their training and knowledge of anthropology to either to successfully compete in the job market in their chosen</p>	<p>Students will be able to demonstrate expertise in their chosen subfield of anthropology.</p>	<p>Of the 21 credits of 600-level coursework required for a MA degree, three of these must be a core class in their subfield.¹</p> <p>Comprehensive exams, administered at the end of the fall semester of a student's second year of study, evaluate knowledge of the primary debates within, history of and research findings in their subfield and chosen field area or geographic region.</p> <p>Comprehensive exam questions will be evaluated in advance by the Graduate Program Coordinator to determine whether they are sufficiently general.</p> <p>Master's theses demonstrate students' mastery of a specific topic of inquiry within their subfield.</p>	<p>At the end of the semester, the instructor of record of the core course will use a rubric (in development) to evaluate each student's knowledge of the subfield.</p> <p>After the completion of the exam, the advisory committee will evaluate the student's performance following a rubric (to be developed).</p> <p>The student's advisory committee will not allow the student to schedule a defense until the committee is satisfied that the student's thesis demonstrates mastery of their topic.</p>

¹ The department is currently rethinking whether this core material will be part of proseminars or core classes.

field or related areas or to compete successfully for admission to institutions of higher learning to pursue further graduate or professional education	Students will be fluent in the research methodologies associated with their subfield and will be able to apply them to their own research.	Students will be required to take one methods-focused class related to their subfield. ²	Methods courses will cover a broad range of methodologies and assignments will be graded by the instructor of record. The evaluation rubric for student theses will include assessment of the application of methods and research design. This rubric will be completed by the student's advisory committee as a whole.
	Students will have a general knowledge of the four fields of anthropology, including its history as a scholarly discipline.	3 of the 15 credits of 600-level coursework will be comprised of a course on the history of anthropology. ³	The instructor of record will complete a rubric (under-development) assessing each student's knowledge of each field.
	Students will be flexible thinkers and able to draw synthetic connections between their subfield and at least one of the others.	Students will be required to take at least one class outside of their subfield. ⁴ Master's theses will engage with or be informed by literature, methodology or theoretical insights from at least one of the other subfields.	Their grade reflects their performance in the class. The advisory committee will fill out a rubric (under development) evaluating the student's ability to draw in knowledge from beyond his or her knowledge.
	Students will be able to develop original research and present it in a variety of public and scholarly settings.	Students receive training in writing conference abstracts in ANTH 627 Research Design and Professional Development, one of the required courses for the MA. Master's theses and seminar papers provide opportunities for students to develop	The instructor of grades students' sample research abstracts. The rubric under development will evaluate theses for their originality and rigor.

²The department is currently revising the curriculum in light of the fact that half of our current tenure track faculty have been at UAF for less than two years. Some currently offered courses will count toward this requirement and a new course—on linguistic anthropological methods (Discourse in Society)—is under development.

³ We are still discussing curriculum and may change the material covered by the currently required course, ANTH 629, "Structures of Anthropological Argument" to reflect this content.

⁴ We are still working out the details of precisely how many subfields students should have coursework in and whether or not archaeology and physical anthropology and linguistic and cultural anthropology may be lumped into two respective groupings for this purpose.

		original research. The thesis defense gives students the opportunity to present their original research to the public.	After the defense, the advisory committee will evaluate the defense based on the student's oral presentation and argumentation skills.
	Students will be fluent in writing grant proposals and research reports.	Students are required to write sample grant proposals and research reports in ANTH 652.	The instructor of record evaluates these assignments as part of the student's grade in the course.
	Students will be prepared to enter professional careers or apply to continue their graduate training.	Writing a thesis and completing ANTH 652 prepares students to describe a prospective research problem, which translates directly into a graduate or professional school admissions essay or fellowship application. Students receive practice writing cover letters and preparing cover letters in ANTH 652	The instructor of record evaluates these assignments as part of the student's grade in the course. The department will collect information on whether students were admitted to PhD programs or got jobs in anthropology or related fields.

Submitted by: