

**Department of Anthropology**  
**Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan**

**Date:** August 2020

**Certificate or Degree Program:** Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Anthropology

**Mission:** 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 other geographical and topical areas. The teaching and research activities in the department cover the four subfields of the discipline: archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistic anthropology, and social/cultural anthropology. The B.S. program aims to give students a solid introduction to the discipline, with an emphasis on connections with the natural sciences. Students have the opportunity to concentrate their studies in either of the B.S. subfields, biological or archaeology, and to gain research experience and training in the field and in the laboratory.

**Goal:** To assure that graduates are prepared to succeed in achieving advanced degrees from institutions of higher learning and/or working professionally across numerous fields involving diverse human experience and bio-cultural adaptation. The B.S. degree differs from the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) by stressing exposure to the natural sciences and quantitative methods and thus enables students to apply to STEM graduate programs.

Intended Objectives/Outcomes	Assessment Criteria	Implementation Procedures
<p><b>1.</b> Students completing the B.S. in Anthropology will have:</p> <p>1) a basic understanding of the history of the discipline, including sub-disciplinary perspectives and approaches,</p> <p>2) an understanding of methods in archaeology and biological anthropological research, and</p> <p>3) an understanding of human evolution, the development of human cultures and the development of human settlements and culture especially in the circumpolar North.</p>	<p>Criterion 1: Knowledge of the sequence of research paradigms and their relative importance and scope.</p> <p>Criterion 2: Familiarity with important methods, research techniques, and knowledge of exemplary studies based on those methods.</p> <p>Criterion 3: Students should know the important milestones in the development of the human species, the key factors in human adaptation and ecology as they relate to both natural and social environments, and be familiar with the range of human settlement types and technologies present in the archaeological record.</p>	<p>Student performance in the required B.A. and B.S. courses is evaluated by the faculty instructors, and monitored by the appropriate Undergraduate Program Coordinator.</p> <p>All majors are required to complete the capstone course ANTH 411 Senior Seminar. To gauge overall achievement, the instructor of the Senior Seminar will administer a standardized, summative exercise designed to assess student competency in the three objectives. These will be evaluated by a committee consisting of: the B.S. Undergraduate Program Coordinator, the course instructor, and at least one other member of the faculty teaching courses for the B.S. program.</p> <p>Following committee review, the year's outcomes results will be forwarded for review and a critique by the full anthropology faculty in an annual assessment plan meeting.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> The Communication Learning Outcomes (CLO) state that UAF undergraduates will demonstrate effective communication when they</p>	<p>Given that all majors are required to complete the capstone course, ANTH 411: Senior Seminar, we believe this course serves as an ideal venue for</p>	<p>For CLO parts 1), 2) and 4): The instructor of ANTH 411 will be responsible for evaluating the degree of success at communicating</p>

<p>are able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Explain disciplinary content using a variety of modes of communication, both oral and written communication.</li> <li>2) Communicate to audiences in the discipline using appropriate disciplinary conventions.</li> <li>3) Translate disciplinary content for reception outside the discipline as appropriate, making disciplinary knowledge relevant to broader audiences.</li> <li>4) Integrate feedback from others to enhance or revise communication.</li> </ol>	<p>assessing whether students have fulfilled CLO 1) and 2). Students in this course are required to complete both oral presentations and written assignments, including a semester-long research project/paper, which must be revised in response to peer- and instructor feedback (per CLO part 4).</p> <p>All B.S. majors are required to take ANTH 214: World Prehistory. The assignment structure for that course includes two assignments that ensure students meet CLO 3). First, they must critically evaluate a public-science documentary on a topic covered as a part of this course. For the assignment, they must address how effectively the documentary translates scientific material for a public audience, and discuss how filmmakers could have done this more effectively. Students will also participate in debates on major controversies in the field; they will be required to pitch their debates to a public audience, requiring them to make scientific data accessible to the public.</p>	<p>disciplinary content via oral presentations. Furthermore, at least two anthropology faculty who primarily teach B.S. courses will read the research papers submitted for ANTH 411 and evaluate the degree to which the student has effectively communicated disciplinary content; the students are required to submit both their first draft and the final paper so that their success at integrating feedback can be assessed.</p> <p>For CLO part 3): The instructor of ANTH 214: will evaluate student success in the critical evaluation of the public science documentary. Furthermore, at least one faculty who primarily teaching B.A. courses will observe the debates in ANTH 214 and evaluate the degree to which the students successfully presented disciplinary content to an outside audience. While our B.A. faculty are within the discipline, the subfields are sufficiently distinct that we feel they will be able to determine the degree to which students have succeeded in fulfilling this objective.</p> <p>The B.S. coordinator will compile the results of these assessments and report back to the full faculty during the first faculty meeting the following fall.</p>
<p><b>3.</b>Students seeking employment will be satisfied that their education has provided useful skills, and/or will seek to continue their academic career by pursuing training in K-12 teacher education, law school, medical/dental school, graduate school in social sciences or STEM fields, or museum studies.</p>	<p>Students obtain satisfying work or are satisfied with the education that they have for the career that they have chosen OR students are find that the education they have received through the program has served them well in preparing for further studies. An outcomes assessment exit survey (with emphasis on student's overall assessment of quality of education received in anthropology) is administered annually to students enrolled in ANTH 411.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Data gathered as available on employment for graduates who have sought such relevant employment, or acceptance into graduate educational programs. Publications, grants and other scholarly achievements and contributions will also be tabulated as a direct measure and entered into a departmental student database.</li> <li>2) At least two faculty, including g the B.A. and B.S. Program Coordinators, will review/evaluate the results of the exit survey given to B.S. students in ANTH 411 and make recommendations regarding potential changes to the degree program to the full faculty the following Fall semester.</li> </ol>