

M.A. in Anthropology
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan
 August 2020

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.

Goal Statement: To assure that graduates are prepared to mobilize their training and knowledge of anthropology either to compete successfully in the job market in their chosen subfield or related areas or to compete successfully for admission to institutions of higher learning to pursue further graduate or professional education.

Intended Objectives/Outcomes	Assessment Criteria and Procedures	Implementation
Students will be able to demonstrate expertise in their chosen subfield of anthropology.	Of the 21 credits of 600-level coursework required for the MA degree, three of these must be a core class in their subfield.	The student's committee will review and report on the student's academic performance and progress toward program completion in the Annual Report of Advisory Committee.
	Comprehensive exams, administered at the end of the fall semester of a student's second year of study, evaluate knowledge of the relevant historical and/or cultural background for the topics, knowledge of relevant methodologies, and knowledge of relevant theoretical frameworks.	After the completion of the exam, the advisory committee will evaluate the student's performance following a rubric (see MA Comprehensive Exam Assessment Score Sheet).

	<p>Master's theses demonstrate students' mastery of a specific topic of inquiry within their subfield.</p>	<p>The student's advisory committee and department faculty in attendance will complete the Program Learning Assessment Score Sheet - Thesis and Dissertation Defense and submit to the Graduate Program Coordinator for outcomes assessment.</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>
<p>Students will be fluent in the research methodologies associated with their subfield and will be able to apply them to their own research.</p>	<p>Students will be required to take one methods-focused class related to their subfield.</p>	<p>The student's advisory committee will review the student's performance in the methods course based on the grade assigned by the instructor of record and discussion with the student during the annual committee meeting. The advisory committee will evaluate the student's knowledge of relevant methodologies as applied in the thesis using a rubric (see Thesis SLOA rubric).</p>
<p>Students will have a general knowledge of the four fields of anthropology.</p>	<p>Students are required to take Anth 629 (3cr) covering research orientations, evidence and argumentation across the four subfields.</p>	<p>The instructor of record will assess the student's general cross-subfield knowledge according to the course evaluation criteria.</p>
<p>Students will be flexible thinkers and able to make connections between their subfield and at least one other subfield.</p>	<p>Students will be required to take at least one class outside of their subfield.</p> <p>Master's theses will engage with or be informed by literature, methodology or theoretical insights from at least one of the other subfields.</p>	<p>Their grade reflects their performance in the class. In addition, the advisory committee will evaluate the student's ability to integrate knowledge from beyond their subfield in the MA comprehensive exam rubric (see Graduate Program Learning Assessment Score Sheet MA Comprehensive Exam)</p>

<p>Students will be able to develop original research and present it in a variety of public and scholarly settings.</p>	<p>Students receive training in participating in professional societies (writing and submitting abstracts and giving a professional presentation) in ANTH 652 Research Design and Professional Development, one of the required courses for the MA.</p> <p>Master’s theses and seminar papers provide opportunities for students to develop original research.</p> <p>The thesis defense gives students the opportunity to present their original research to the public.</p>	<p>The instructor of record grades students’ research abstracts and presentations.</p> <p>The thesis defense rubric evaluates theses for their originality and rigor.</p> <p>After the defense, the advisory committee will evaluate the defense based on the student’s oral presentation and argumentation skills.</p>
<p>Students will be prepared to enter professional careers or apply to continue their graduate or professional training.</p>	<p>Writing a thesis and completing ANTH 652 (Research Design and Professional Development) prepares students to engage in tasks associated with entering the job market or applying to advanced graduate or professional training (research proposals, cover letters, CV and resume, job interviews, research dissemination, etc.)</p>	<p>The instructor of record evaluates these assignments as part of the student’s grade in the course.</p> <p>The department will collect information on whether students were admitted to PhD programs or got jobs in anthropology or related fields.</p>