

REPORT ON AY2022-2023 ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

Submission date: 11/15/2023

Assessment Plan covered in the report: Applied Anthropology MA

College: College of Arts and Sciences

Campuses where the program(s) is delivered: Anchorage KOD KPC MSC PWSC

Submitted by: Diane K. Hanson, Professor, Department of Anthropology & Geography

After responding to the questions below, the program should email this form to the dean, with a copy to the appropriate community campus director(s) if the program is delivered on a community campus.

- 1. Please list and number the Program Student Learning Outcomes your program assessed in AY23. For each outcome, indicate one of the following: Exceeded faculty expectations, Met faculty expectations, or Did not meet faculty expectations.**

Example: 1. Communicate effectively in a variety of contexts and formats – Exceeded faculty expectations; 2. Adopt critical perspectives for understanding the forces of globalization and diversity – Met faculty expectations.

Graduate Program Student Learning Outcome assessed in AY23:

2. Articulate key ethical considerations and responsibilities in applied anthropological research - Met faculty expectations.
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- 2. Describe your assessment process in AY23 for these Program Student Learning Outcomes, including the collection of data, analysis of data, and faculty (and other, e.g., advisory board) conversations around the findings. (1000 words or less)**

Outcome measures of a student's ethical awareness and consideration are evaluated through their Knowledge of Ethical Considerations and Responsibilities and Demonstration of Ethical Practice in Research.

Knowledge of Ethical Considerations and Responsibilities - three students in the program are completing their coursework. They took ANTH A658 - Advanced Ethics in Archaeology, which provides direct training of professional ethics. Other courses that include ethics training are ANTH A615

Advanced Applied Anthropology, ANTH 687 - Field Methods in Cultural Anthropology, and ANTH A610 Anthropological theory. Assessment data came from the grades of their professors based on their performance in the courses.

Demonstration of Ethical Practice in Research - A demonstration of ethical practice in research comes through the student's prospectus, their oral defense, and completed thesis at the end of the program. Two students defended archaeological theses in Academic Year 2022-2023, providing assessment data.

These assessments begin during the coursework phase of their program, and continue through the final thesis.

3. What are the findings and what do they tell the faculty about student learning in your program? (1000 words or less)

The students all earned As or Bs in their coursework, meeting faculty expectations.

Both students who defended their theses acknowledged the contributions of their employers, collaborators, outside funding sources, and Indigenous groups associated with the areas they worked in, demonstrating their awareness of the multiple facets of ethical responsibilities in the profession, thereby meeting faculty expectations.

4. Based on the findings, did the faculty make any recommendations for changes to improve student achievement of the Program Student Learning Outcomes? No

- i. Please describe the recommended action(s), what improvements in student learning the program hopes to see, the proposed timeline, and how the program will know if the change(s) has worked. If no recommendations for changes were made, please explain that decision. (1000 words or less)**

The program intentionally inserted courses on ethical practices with program changes initiated in 2018-2019. On the recommendation of our students, ethical issues and practices were included as part of the content in other applied courses including theory, applied anthropology, and field methods.

Last year there were only two anthropologists in the department. In the past year we hired two additional anthropologists - an archaeologist and a bioarcheologist. Both have excellent records in professional ethics and will add to the program.

5. In the past academic year, how did your program use the results of previous assessment cycles to make changes intended to improve student achievement of the Program Student Learning Outcomes? Please check all that apply.

- Course curriculum changes
 Course prerequisite changes

- Changes in teaching methods
- Changes in advising
- Degree requirement changes
- Degree course sequencing
- Course enrollment changes (e.g., course capacity, grading structure [pass/fail, A-F])
- Changes in program policies/procedures
- Changes to Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)
- College-wide initiatives (e.g., High-Impact Practices)
- Faculty, staff, student development
- Other
- No changes were implemented in AY23. *(If no options above were selected)*

If you checked "Other" above, please describe. (100 words or less)

- 6. Do you have any information about how well these or other past improvements are working? Are they achieving their intended goals? Please include any data or assessment results that help you demonstrate this. (1000 words or less)**

Our evidence is primarily from students' actions once they leave the university, and their concern with ethical practices in their jobs. Based on performance there appears to be a shift from our earliest graduates and our most recent graduates. Students are more likely now to contact us about ethical dilemmas than in the past. This may be partly owing to our increasing emphasis in classes and by interacting with the students more informally. These data are subjective.

DEAN SECTION (Due to the program on January 15)

After completing the Dean Section and signing it, the dean should email this form to the program, and copy uaa_ooo@alaska.edu for posting. If the program is delivered on one or more community campus, the dean should consult with the appropriate community campus director(s) on the response and copy the appropriate community campus director(s) when emailing the response to the program.

- 1. Based on the program's responses above, what guidance and support do you have for the program moving forward? (200 words or less)**

With the upcoming changeover of faculty, the program is encouraged to expand and enhance the assessment process, for example, to assess the non-thesis option as well as the thesis option.

2. Discuss what the program is doing particularly well in terms of its processes for the assessment and improvement of student learning, for example, the use of a common rubric or prompt, a signature assignment, etc. *(200 words or less)*

The program is applauded for their detailed assessment of ethical considerations in the graduate program.

Dean's signature: Jenny McNulty

Date: 1/12/2024