Mission / Purpose

As an integral part of the School of Urban Planning and Regional Studies, the Department of Anthropology supports the urban educational mission of the university. The anthropology program, long designed to take advantage of New Orleans' and southern Louisiana's cultural and historic resources, provides undergraduate and graduate students with opportunities and tools with which to participate in cultural, economic, and political development of the region. The Department of Anthropology offers two degrees, a bachelor of arts in anthropology and a masters of science degree in urban studies with an applied anthropology focus through the School of Urban Planning and Regional Studies. The B.A. degree provides undergraduate students with a broad foundation in anthropology, with a particular focus on applied urban theory and research.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives, with Any Associations and Related Measures, Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

SLO 1: Critical anthropological thinking
Students will acquire a broad foundation in critical anthropological thinking, as well as knowledge of the history of the discipline.

Related Measures

M 1: Anthropology courses at the 4000 level
In each 4000 level concept/theory class and in ANTH 4801, the History of Anthropological Theory, students will be required to write at least one essay demonstrating an understanding of critical anthropological thinking.

Source of Evidence: Academic direct measure of learning - other

Target: 80% of anthropology majors will receive a C or better on critical anthropological thinking essays.

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Partially Met
In the fall 2013 semester, there were 4 classes in which anthropology majors were required to write an an essay demonstrating an understanding of critical anthropological thinking. These were: ANTH 4075 (Life History), ANTH 4090 601 (Archaeology of the African Diaspora and African America), ANTH 4090 602 (Culture and Consumption), and ANTH 4775 (Urban Anthropology). There were 25 anthropology majors enrolled in these courses. 80% of these students (20) received a C or better when evaluated according to the department's evaluation standards for critical anthropological thinking.

In the spring 2014 semester, there were 4 classes in which anthropology majors were required to write an an essay demonstrating an understanding of critical anthropological thinking. These were: ANTH 4330 (Gender and Latin America), ANTH 4765 (Ethnicity in Contemporary Society), ANTH 4801 (History of Anthropological Theory), and ANTH 4995 (Anthropology of Contemporary Issues). There were 36 anthropology majors enrolled in these courses. 78% of these students (26) received a C or better when evaluated according to the department's evaluation standards for critical anthropological thinking. For the full academic year, this means that we only partially met our target.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):

Analytic rubric
The anthropology faculty will continue to refine the tools we use to review student papers that reveal critical anthropological thinking. This is an ongoing process that is revised to reflect both the courses we teach and changing priorities in the discipline. The evaluation categories will be revised as often as necessary.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Anthropology courses at the 4000 level | Outcome/Objective: Critical anthropological thinking

Implementation Description: On going process.
Responsible Person/Group: The full time anthropology faculty.
Additional Resources: None.

critical thinking essays and evaluation
The anthropology faculty only partially met (78%, just under our target of 80%) of essays at the appropriate level to demonstrate critical anthropological thinking. We will re-evaluate the kinds of essays we are assigning, the approach we are using to encourage students to improve their work, and the tools we use to assess them.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Planned
Priority: Medium

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Anthropology courses at the 4000 level | Outcome/Objective: Critical anthropological thinking

Projected Completion Date: 05/2015
Exit survey

An exit survey will be administered to graduating seniors in ANTH 4995.

Source of Evidence: Exit interviews with grads/program completers

Target:
80% of graduating seniors will positively evaluate their ability to think anthropologically in the capstone exit survey.

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met

The ANTH 4995 (capstone) class survey of graduating anthropology majors received 4 responses (out of 8 majors in the class). The following questions were relevant to the target of positively evaluating the student's ability to think anthropologically: To what extent did the anthropology program clarify the goals of anthropology as a discipline? How effective were the course offerings in providing you with an understanding of how research, practical application, and theory interact and support one another? How effective were the courses you have taken in helping you to develop an "anthropological perspective" with which to understand your own and other cultures? For each of these questions, all 4 respondents gave positive evaluations.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):

survey plan
- We will continue to administer the survey to graduating (in the spring or fall semesters) senior anthropology majors in ANTH 4995 each spring semester.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
- Measure: Exit survey | Outcome/Objective: Critical anthropological thinking

Implementation Description: see description.

Responsible Person/Group: All full time anthropology faculty. Data will be collected by the instructor in ANTH 4995.

Additional Resources: none.

SLO 2: Anthropological research methods

Students will acquire knowledge of and experience in anthropological research methods.

Related Measures

M 2: ANTH 3301 or another methodology course

Students will complete an applied research project in ANTH 3301 or another methodology course (depending on course offerings) that demonstrates an understanding of applied research methods.

Source of Evidence: Academic direct measure of learning - other

Target:
80% of anthropology majors in methodology courses will receive a C or better on their applied research project.

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met

We did not offer one of our regular methodology courses in the Fall 2013 semester. However, we did offer ANTH 3090 (New Orleans Public Culture), as a special topics course. In that class, students completed an applied research project that required an ethnographic investigation into Bayou Road and the planning and participation of a public event on Bayou Road. 100% of the anthropology majors in the class received a C or better on this project, based on the criteria established by the anthropology faculty for evaluating applied research projects. In the Spring 2014 semester, we offered ANTH 3402, Ethnography at Home, which is a methods class. The students made small books about communities that they are a part of—they had to interview and work with community members on the project, and have published them in a book format through Blurb.com. They also organized an event at the Neighborhood Story Project with all of the people involved to celebrate the research, which include looking at Cajun visiting rituals, a Houma/Philippino family on the Westbank, Honduran/Syrian family in Metairie, indie rock scene in the city, a project on the "lavender line" on Bourbon Street (Oz and the Pub), and deaf culture in Louisiana. There were 9 anthropology majors (out of 17 students), all of whom (100%) received a C or better on their applied research project.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):

Analytic rubric
- The anthropology faculty will continue to refine the tools we use to review student applied research projects. This is an ongoing process that is revised to reflect both the courses we teach and changing priorities in the discipline. The evaluation categories will be revised as often as necessary.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
- Measure: ANTH 3301 or another methodology course | Outcome/Objective: Anthropological research methods

Implementation Description: Ongoing project.

Responsible Person/Group: All full time faculty, although the faculty who teach applied and methods courses will take the lead.

Additional Resources: None.

M 3: Course work in an applied course

Students will demonstrate an ability to design and complete a field research project.

Source of Evidence: Academic direct measure of learning - other

Target:
80% of anthropology majors will receive a C or better on their field research project.

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met

The department offered ANTH 4775 (Urban Anthropology) in the fall 2013 semester. This is a course in which students design, conduct, and present a field research project. Of the 11 anthropology majors in the class, 7
SLO 3: Students will be able to communicate, in oral and written forms, on subjects of anthropological significance.

Related Measures

Source of Evidence: faculty jury.

Students in their senior year of study will present an in-class presentation (in ANTH 4995), to be assessed by a faculty jury using a rubric developed by the department for this purpose. Over the course of the entire 2013-14 academic year, 20 anthropology majors in two different classes carried out field research projects. Of these, 80% (16) received a C or better on their applied research project. This measure is based on performance of students on a project in ANTH 4995 (Anthropology of Contemporary Issues), which is offered every spring. The research project and in-class presentation is evaluated by a faculty jury using a rubric developed by the department for this purpose. We will administer the survey to graduating (in the spring or fall semesters) senior anthropology majors in ANTH 4995 each spring semester.

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met

The ANTH 4995 (capstone) class survey of graduating anthropology majors received 4 responses (out of 8 majors in the class). The following questions were relevant to this target: To what extent has the program and curriculum made you aware of, or provided you with, or encouraged you with opportunities to develop in areas such as: professional standards; hands-on research; field school experience; etc? To what extent do you think the anthropology curriculum provides you with useful tools and preparation for the next phase of your professional life and development? How would you characterize how your courses in anthropology have helped to develop your research skills and capacities? All 4 responses (100%) to these questions were positive.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):

**Improved rubric and training**

The anthropology faculty will continue to refine the tools we use to review student research projects. This is an ongoing process that is revised to reflect both the courses we teach and changing priorities in the discipline. The evaluation categories will be revised as often as necessary. In addition, we will examine the methods used to train students in the conception, implementation, and reporting of their projects in order to insure that we meet our goals for student success in this exercise.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
- **Measure**: Course work in an applied course
- **Outcome/Objective**: Anthropological research methods

Implementation Description: See description of the plan. This is an ongoing plan, which we will revise in light of our results each semester.

Responsible Person/Group: All full-time faculty who teach courses with student research projects.

Additional Resources: None.

M 7: Exit survey

An exit survey will be administered to graduating seniors in ANTH 4995.

Source of Evidence: Exit interviews with grads/program completers

Target:

80% of graduating seniors will positively evaluate their understanding of and experience using applied research methods.

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met

The ANTH 4995 (capstone) exit survey plan of graduating anthropology majors received 4 responses (out of 8 majors in the class). The following questions were relevant to this target: How would you characterize the application of anthropological research methods to class projects? How many of your projects required the use of applied research methods? To what extent have your courses in anthropology prepared you for work in your field of professional life and development? To what extent have your courses in anthropology provided you with useful tools and preparation for the next phase of your professional life and development? All 4 responses (100%) to these questions were positive.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):

**Survey plan**

We will continue to administer the survey to graduating (in the spring or fall semesters) senior anthropology majors in ANTH 4995 each spring semester.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
- **Measure**: Exit survey
- **Outcome/Objective**: Anthropological research methods

Implementation Description: See description.

Responsible Person/Group: All full time anthropology faculty. Data will be collected by the instructor in ANTH 4995.

Additional Resources: None.

SLO 3: communicate on subjects of anthropological significance

Students will be able to communicate, in oral and written forms, on subjects of anthropological significance.

Related Measures

**M 4: In-class presentation**

Students in their senior year of study will present an in-class presentation (in ANTH 4995), to be assessed by a faculty jury.

Source of Evidence: Presentation, either individual or group

Target:

80% of graduating seniors will receive a passing assessment of their in-class presentation from the faculty jury.

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met

This measure is based on performance of students on a project in ANTH 4995 (Anthropology of Contemporary Issues), which is offered every spring. Their research project and in-class presentation is evaluated by a faculty jury using a rubric developed by the department for this purpose. We will have data for 2013-14 at the end of the spring semester. 100% of graduating senior anthropology majors in ANTH 4995 in the spring 2013 semester received passing assessments from the faculty jury. As planned, we offered ANTH 4995 in the spring 2014 semester. Of the 8 anthropology majors who took the class, 6 received passing assessments (3 received A's, 2 received B's) from the faculty jury. 2 students failed, however, this was because they did not actually do...
their in-class presentations. Thus, 100% of the students who turned up and presented their research, passed.

**Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):**

**Data collection and analysis**
We will continue to use a faculty jury to review, with the appropriate rubric we have developed for this purpose, student presentations. Data we collect in the spring semester will be analyzed in order to revise course work leading up to this exercise.

**Established in Cycle:** 2013-14  
**Implementation Status:** In-Progress  
**Priority:** High

**Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**  
**Measure:** In-class presentation  
**Outcome/Objective:** communicate on subjects of anthropological significance

**Implementation Description:** ongoing  
**Responsible Person/Group:** All full time faculty, with the lead taken by the faculty member who teaches ANTH 4995 in the spring semester (this rotates among the faculty).  
**Additional Resources:** None.

**M 5: Essay or other project**
Students in their senior year will prepare an essay or other project (in ANTH 4995) which demonstrates their reasoning and analytical ability in dealing with anthropological data and issues.

**Source of Evidence:** Project, either individual or group

**Target:**  
80% of graduating seniors will receive a passing assessment of their essay or other project from the faculty jury.

**Finding (2013-14) - Target: Partially Met**
This measure is based on performance of students on a project in ANTH 4995 (Anthropology of Contemporary Issues), which is offered every spring. Their research project and in-class presentation is evaluated by a faculty jury using a rubric developed by the department for this purpose. We will have data for 2013-14 at the end of the spring semester. 100% of graduating senior anthropology majors in ANTH 4995 in the spring 2013 semester received passing assessments from the faculty jury. As planned, we offered ANTH 4995 in the spring 2014 semester. Of the 8 anthropology majors who took the class, 6 received passing assessments (3 received A's, 2 received B's) for their research projects and 2 students failed. It is worth noting that the 2 who failed did not turn in their projects. Thus, while only 75% of the students received passing assessments, the 25% who did not, failed by not actually turning in work to be assessed.

**Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):**

**Data collection and analysis**
We will continue to use a faculty jury to review, with the rubric we have developed for this purpose, student papers in the capstone course. Data we collect in the spring semester will be analyzed in order to revise course work leading up to this exercise.

**Established in Cycle:** 2013-14  
**Implementation Status:** In-Progress  
**Priority:** High

**Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**  
**Measure:** Essay or other project  
**Outcome/Objective:** communicate on subjects of anthropological significance

**Implementation Description:** ongoing  
**Responsible Person/Group:** All full time faculty, with the lead taken by the faculty member who teaches ANTH 4995 in the spring semester (this rotates among the faculty).  
**Additional Resources:** None.

**M 7: Exit survey**
An exit survey will be administered to graduating seniors in ANTH 4995.

**Source of Evidence:** Exit interviews with grads/program completers

**Target:**  
80% of graduating seniors in ANTH 4995 will positively evaluate their competencies in the exit survey.

**Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met**
The ANTH 4995 (capstone) class survey of graduating anthropology majors received 4 responses (out of 8 majors in the class). How would you characterize how your courses in anthropology have helped to develop your writing skills? How would you characterize how your courses in anthropology have helped to develop your thinking / analytical skills? How would you characterize how your courses in anthropology have helped to develop your ability to speak and communicate effectively? How would you characterize how your courses in anthropology have helped to develop your research skills and capacities? All 4 responses were “satisfactory” or better. Thus, 100% of the evaluations were positive.

**Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):**

**survey plan**
We will continue to administer the survey to graduating (in the spring or fall semesters) senior anthropology majors in ANTH 4995 each spring semester.

**Established in Cycle:** 2013-14  
**Implementation Status:** In-Progress  
**Priority:** High

**Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**  
**Measure:** Exit survey  
**Outcome/Objective:** communicate on subjects of anthropological significance

**Implementation Description:** see description.  
**Responsible Person/Group:** All full time anthropology faculty. Data will be collected by the instructor
SLO 4: Anthropological theory and methods

Students will be able to competently explain how anthropological theory and methods can be used in applied contexts.

Related Measures

M 6: Research project

Students in their senior year will prepare a research project focused on contemporary applied issues in the capstone course (ANTH 4995) which demonstrates their reasoning and analytical ability in dealing with anthropological data and issues.

Source of Evidence: Project, either individual or group

Target:

80% of graduating seniors will receive a passing assessment of their essay or other project from the faculty jury.

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met

This measure is based on performance of students on a project in ANTH 4995 (Anthropology of Contemporary Issues), which is offered every spring. Their research project and in-class presentation is evaluated by a faculty jury using a rubric developed by the department for this purpose. We will have data for 2013-14 at the end of the spring semester. 100% of graduating senior anthropology majors in ANTH 4995 in the spring 2013 semester received passing assessments from the faculty jury. As planned, we offered ANTH 4995 in the spring 2014 semester. Of the 8 anthropology majors who took the class, 6 received passing assessments (3 received A's, 2 received B's) for their research projects and 2 students failed. It is worth noting that the 2 who failed did not turn in their projects. Thus, while only 75% of the students received passing assessments, the 25% who did not, failed by not actually turning in work to be assessed. Of those who turned in their work, 100% received a passing assessment.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):

Data collection and analysis

We will continue to use a faculty jury to review, with the rubric we have developed for this purpose, student papers in the capstone course. Data we collect in the spring semester will be analyzed in order to revise course work leading up to this exercise.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):

Measure: Research project | Outcome/Objective: Anthropological theory and methods

Implementation Description: Ongoing

Responsible Person/Group: All full time faculty, with the lead taken by the faculty member who teaches ANTH 4995 in the spring semester (this rotates among the faculty).

Additional Resources: None.

M 7: Exit survey

An exit survey will be administered to graduating seniors in ANTH 4995.

Source of Evidence: Exit interviews with grads/program completers

Target:

80% of graduating seniors will positively evaluate their competencies in the exit survey.

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met

The ANTH 4995 (capstone) class survey of graduating anthropology majors received 4 responses (out of 8 majors in the class). The following questions were relevant to this target: How do you rank the overall effectiveness of the anthropology program? If you eventually plan to apply to a professional school for graduate work, how do you evaluate the curriculum as a vehicle for preparing you for graduate education? How do you evaluate the "intellectual" and "academic" environment established by the Department of Anthropology and its faculty? 100% of the responses were satisfactory or better.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):

Survey plan

We will continue to administer the survey to graduating (in the spring or fall semesters) senior anthropology majors in ANTH 4995 each spring semester.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):

Measure: Exit survey | Outcome/Objective: Anthropological theory and methods

Implementation Description: see description.

Responsible Person/Group: All full time anthropology faculty. Data will be collected by the instructor in ANTH 4995.

Additional Resources: None.

Details of Action Plans for This Cycle (by Established cycle, then alpha)

Analytic rubric

The anthropology faculty will continue to refine the tools we use to review student applied research projects. This is an ongoing process that is revised to reflect both the courses we teach and changing priorities in the discipline. The evaluation categories will be revised as often as necessary.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High
Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: ANTH 3301 or another methodology course | Outcome/Objective: Anthropological research methods

Implementation Description: Ongoing project.
Responsible Person/Group: All full time faculty, although the faculty who teach applied and methods courses will take the lead.
Additional Resources: None.

Analytic rubric
The anthropology faculty will continue to refine the tools we use to review student papers that reveal critical anthropological thinking. This is an ongoing process that is revised to reflect both the courses we teach and changing priorities in the discipline. The evaluation categories will be revised as often as necessary.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Anthropology courses at the 4000 level | Outcome/Objective: Critical anthropological thinking

Implementation Description: On going process.
Responsible Person/Group: The full time anthropology faculty.
Additional Resources: None.

critical thinking essays and evaluation
The anthropology faculty only partially met (78%, just under our target of 80%) of essays at the appropriate level to demonstrate critical anthropological thinking. We will re-evaluate the kinds of essays we are assigning, the approach we are using to encourage students to improve their work, and the tools we use to assess them.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Planned
Priority: Medium

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Anthropology courses at the 4000 level | Outcome/Objective: Critical anthropological thinking

Projected Completion Date: 05/2015

Data collection and analysis
We will continue to use a faculty jury to review, with the appropriate rubric we have developed for this purpose, student presentations. Data we collect in the spring semester will be analyzed in order to revise course work leading up to this exercise.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: In-class presentation | Outcome/Objective: communicate on subjects of anthropological significance

Implementation Description: ongoing
Responsible Person/Group: All full time faculty, with the lead taken by the faculty member who teaches ANTH 4995 in the spring semester (this rotates among the faculty).
Additional Resources: None.

Data collection and analysis
We will continue to use a faculty jury to review, with the rubric we have developed for this purpose, student papers in the capstone course. Data we collect in the spring semester will be analyzed in order to revise course work leading up to this exercise.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Essay or other project | Outcome/Objective: communicate on subjects of anthropological significance

Implementation Description: ongoing
Responsible Person/Group: All full time faculty, with the lead taken by the faculty member who teaches ANTH 4995 in the spring semester (this rotates among the faculty).
Additional Resources: None.

Data collection and analysis
We will continue to use a faculty jury to review, with the rubric we have developed for this purpose, student papers in the capstone course. Data we collect in the spring semester will be analyzed in order to revise course work leading up to this exercise.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Research project | Outcome/Objective: Anthropological theory and methods

Implementation Description: Ongoing
Responsible Person/Group: All full time faculty, with the lead taken by the faculty member who teaches ANTH 4995 in the spring semester (this rotates among the faculty).
Additional Resources: None.

Improved rubric and training
The anthropology faculty will continue to refine the tools we use to review student research projects. This is an ongoing process that is revised to reflect both the courses we teach and changing priorities in the discipline. The
evaluation categories will be revised as often as necessary. In addition, we will examine the methods used to train students in the conception, implementation, and reporting of their projects in order to insure that we meet our goals for student success in this exercise.

**Established in Cycle:** 2013-14  
**Implementation Status:** In-Progress  
**Priority:** High  

**Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**  
Measure: Course work in an applied course  
Outcome/Objective: Anthropological research methods

**Implementation Description:** See description of the plan. This is an ongoing plan, which we will revise in light of our results each semester.  
**Responsible Person/Group:** All full time faculty who teach courses with student research projects.  
**Additional Resources:** None.

### survey plan

We will continue to administer the survey to graduating (in the spring or fall semesters) senior anthropology majors in ANTH 4995 each spring semester.

**Established in Cycle:** 2013-14  
**Implementation Status:** In-Progress  
**Priority:** High  

**Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**  
Measure: Exit survey  
Outcome/Objective: Anthropological theory and methods

**Implementation Description:** see description.  
**Responsible Person/Group:** All full time anthropology faculty. Data will be collected by the instructor in ANTH 4995.  
**Additional Resources:** None.