Undergraduate Program Assessment

Department of Anthropology

Student Learning Objectives

• Gain an understanding of who we are, as humans, within the context of our evolutionary past.
• Gain an appreciation of the causes and function of human biological and cultural variation in the past and present.
• Recognize the dynamic and changing nature of individuals, societies, and populations.
• Better understand how individuals and their communities are shaped by economic and political institutions beyond them including colonialism, systematic structures of inequality, globalization, race, gender, class and sexuality.
• Be able to articulate how evolution works within the contexts of developmental and population biology, including the processes of natural selection, mutation, genetic drift and gene flow.
• Become familiar with the theories and methods (technical, analytic, qualitative and quantitative) through which we understand the full range of human behavior.
• Gain appreciation of the variable and systematic ways human beings have of organizing culturally meaningful lives.
• Develop skills in critical thinking about biological diversity.
• Develop skills in critical thinking about issues of social and cultural diversity and inequality.
• Understand the basic premises of ethically responsible research.
• Gain experience in conducting anthropological research.
• Develop advanced skills in effective communication – written and oral- about human culture, society and biology. These skills will be of benefit to any professional career.
• Develop self-reflexivity and other skills relevant to problem solving and social activism.

Assessment tools

• Indirect: in-house designed survey of graduates, designed to learn what people are doing in their careers, the impact of the department on their lives/careers, what they enjoyed most about their time in the department, and what the department can do to help them now.
• Indirect: adding customized questions to SRTI course evaluation forms for upper level anthropology courses.
• Indirect: survey of undergraduates on curricular issues.
• Indirect: revived the Undergraduate Caucus to enable student feedback supporting program assessment.

Highlighted recent activities

• Curriculum Committee plans to review survey results from above sources to think about how to better meet the needs of the department’s students.