SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

ACADEMIC MATTERS, ACADEMIC PRIORITIES AND
PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCILS

concerning

REVISION OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) MAJOR REQUIREMENTS
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Presented at the
768th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
April 27, 2017

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL


ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL

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PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCIL

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

As part of the plan to replace the Global Education requirement in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences with program-specific requirements, the Department of Anthropology is proposing to revise its major. The significant changes from current requirements are:
(1) The number of required credits for the major will increase from 36 to 42.
(2) A Research Methods sequence (minimum of 6 credits) will be required.
(3) A Global and International requirement (minimum of 9 credits) will be added. The requirement can be satisfied through five options: 9 credits of Anthropology courses from an approved list; 9 credits in a non-English language; a combination of at least 9 credits of approved coursework and non-English language; completion of an approved certificate or minor; completion of 9 credits in an IPO-approved study-abroad program.

At its meeting on April 6, 2016, the Academic Matters Council voted unanimously to recommend Faculty Senate approval of the Revision of the B.A. Major Requirements in the Department of Anthropology. It was submitted as proposal #2749 in the Course and Curriculum Management System.

ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL

On April 19, 2017, the Academic Priorities Council endorsed approval of this proposal subject after two requested changes were made. The first is that fulfillment of department level international and intercultural requirements can be fulfilled by departmentally approved study abroad. The second is that “At least one course taken to fulfill the major’s international/intercultural requirement must have an international focus (if a topical course), be a foreign language, or be taken during a departmentally approved study abroad.

PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCIL

At its meeting on March 22, 2017, the Program and Budget Council voted 9 Yes, 5 No and 1 Abstention on the proposal #2749, Revision of the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Major Requirements in the Department of Anthropology, as part of a group of related proposals (#s 2748 through 2756 in the Course and Curriculum Management System). It addressed its comments to the framework proposal (#2748).

MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision of the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Major Requirements in the Department of Anthropology, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 17-060.
Please describe your proposal.

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences seeks to transform the international and intercultural education focus in our curriculum from the college-based Global Education Requirement for B.A. majors to an integrated theme that is incorporated directly into strengthened and updated B.A. major requirements. (See Proposal 2748 in the UMass Course and Curriculum Management System.)

To graduate, students in the Anthropology major must currently fulfill the Global Education Requirement of 15 credits plus their major requirements of 36 credits. After the proposed change, students in the Anthropology major will fulfill expanded major requirements totaling 42 credits that incorporate international and intercultural education directly into the major in a manner tailored to our discipline. The current college level Global Education Requirement will be ended for students in the Anthropology major.

The new major level international and intercultural related requirements can be fulfilled through a list of courses designated by the department, by foreign language courses, or by departmentally approved study abroad. Students may also complete a minor or certificate from a designated department list to fulfill this requirement.

We are proposing further changes to the structure of the Anthropology major that are not related to international/intercultural education. We propose to increase the maximum credit hours below the 190-level (from 6 to 8); rather than taking 300-level courses in 3 out of the 4 anthropology subfields students will take a minimum of 15 credits at the 300-level or above; and a model based on ‘concentrations’ will replace the subfield breadth requirement. The current “doing” (or hands-on) requirement will be replaced by a research methods sequence.

Please describe the existing program requirements, listing all required courses and available electives, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

The Department of Anthropology currently requires students to complete a minimum of 36 credits in Anthropology to obtain a major. Requirements include:

1. Anthropology 281 - Research Methods in Anthropology (or equivalent college level statistics course)
2. Anthropology 364 - Problems in Anthropology (fulfills the Junior Year Writing requirement)
3. Integrative Experience course (we have 4 courses that fulfill IE)
4. A “doing” or hands-on requirement.
5. Up to 6 credits at the 100 level may be counted toward the major.
6. Students must take at least 28 credits at the 200 level or above
7. Students must complete a course in three out of the four subfields in Anthropology (cultural, biological, linguistic anthropology, and archaeology) at the 300 level or above.
8. All courses in the major must be taken for a letter grade and students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 or better in major courses.

Please describe the requirements that you are proposing, listing course requirements, elective options, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

1. A minimum of 42 credits (increase from 36 credits).
2. A maximum of 8 credits at the 190-level or below would count toward the major (increase from 6 credits).
3. A minimum of 15 credits at the 300-level or above (change from 3 out of 4 subfields at the 300 level or above).
4. A Research Methods Sequence (6 credits minimum). The sequence must include Anthropology 281 - Research Methods in Anthropology (which meets the University’s R2 Gen Ed Math Requirement) or an equivalent Statistics course approved by an Anthropology Advisor, plus an additional advanced research
methods course, Anthropology Field School, or ISSR Research Methods Certificate (change from requirement of taking Anthropology 281 plus a “doing” course). The Department will identify all courses that qualify as an advanced research methods.

5. Anthropology 364 - Problems in Anthropology (meets the Junior Year Writing University Requirement) (no change).

6. Integrative Experience Requirement (no change).

7. Global and Intercultural Education Requirement (9 credits), which can be met through five options:
   - Coursework Option: complete 9 credits of Anthropology or other courses tagged by the Anthropology Department as having Intercultural and/or Global content
   - Language Option: complete nine credits in a non-English language
   - Coursework + Language Option: complete a combination of 9 credits of the above (Coursework & non-English language)
   - Certificate/Minor Option: complete a Department-approved Certificate or Minor
   - Departmentally Approved Study Abroad Option: complete 9 credits through an IPO-approved semester-long study-abroad program.

- At least one course taken to fulfill the Global and Intercultural Education Requirement must have an international focus (if a topical course), be a foreign language, or be taken during a departmentally approved study abroad.

Please provide the rationale for these revisions.

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences has provided a rationale for transforming international and intercultural education in the B.A. majors from the college-level Global Education Requirement to departmental requirements. Please see document Rationale for Transformation of International & Intercultural Education in the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences (attached) for this overall rationale.

Within this framework, the Anthropology major has revised our requirements to meet a key learning goal that we have for all of our majors – we want anthropology students to gain advanced skills in appreciating and thinking critically about difference, whether it be in cultural background, language, religion, race, class, sexuality or gender. Rather than requiring 1 or 2 courses about intercultural topics or cultural diversity, we aim to have it woven throughout our curriculum. We do not want to simply showcase other parts of the world, but instead we aim to give students a critical cultural competency that will make attention to diversity a habit of mind. We strive for our majors to always be asking questions about how diversity is linked to structures of inequality and to emerge better able to interact productively in culturally diverse workplaces and communities here and abroad. The changes we propose to the Anthropology major will give our majors opportunities to appreciate diversity as an asset in our globalized world and to develop the skills and habits of mind to work across difference that we expect and aim to cultivate. Through these changes we allow anthropology majors flexibility to meet our new “Global and Intercultural Education Requirement” through 1 of 5 options: 9 credits of Anthropology or other courses that have intercultural and/or Global content, 9 credits in a non-English language, 9 credits in a combination of Anthropology or other courses + non-English language courses, through an approved certificate or minor, or through Study Abroad. This revision reflects the anthropology major’s strong commitment to diversity and building intercultural competency in a structured and rigorous yet flexible way. The changes will provide an integrated and in-depth level of intercultural and international education for anthropology majors.

Academic Requirements Review

Requirement: V. In addition to the Gen Ed, Diversity, and College requirements, you must complete the following Major requirements: (rg49)
Rule: I. Subfield Requirement: Take at least one course in three of the four subfields. (r60)
Line: Archaeology (r60,ln10)
Line: Linguistic Anthropology (r60,ln20)
If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.

This proposal does not require additional resources within SBS or the Anthropology major, although the college and department continue to point out the unusually high student to faculty ratios within SBS and call for faculty hiring to address this imbalance. Under the proposed curriculum changes, we expect some increases in demand for courses within SBS that are identified as having international, global or intercultural content. This additional demand has already been considered by us in approving this major change proposal.

In the Anthropology major the proposed changes will be drawn from courses we already offer in our curriculum. In the short run, we can meet the curricular needs through existing Tenure Track faculty and lecturers. However, to sustain that curriculum long term, we have proposed a hiring plan of 3 tenure-track positions to replace positions vacated due to retirement or resignations. A move to supporting students through a guided choice model gives greater agency to students which requires a stable, dedicated position as chief undergraduate advisor (CUA). The Anthropology Department does not currently have stable funding for a CUA.

(Please refer to Proposal #2749 in the Course and Curriculum Management System for the Track Changes and the Rationale for Transformation of International and Intercultural Education in CSBS.)