

**Annual Key Assessment Findings Report
Department of Anthropology
BA Program in Anthropology
Academic Year 2010-2011**

Assessment Findings

The rubrics developed during 2008-2009 were used to evaluate the September 2010 Senior Comprehensive Exams, taken by four students including one retake (failed in Fall 2009). Their effectiveness for grading the exams was reviewed in the April 2011 faculty meeting. The exercise revealed a continuing dissatisfaction with student performance in the identification of key concepts section of the exam and weaknesses in the analytical portion. Several factors seem to account for it: inconsistent completion of 100-level survey courses, which for majors introduce them to the scope of the discipline, and poor carry-over between courses. We believe that the advice in our Advising Guidelines for Anthropology Majors, that 100-level courses need to be completed before attempting Senior Comps, needs to be reaffirmed in advising, and made a requirement.

Mid-level Anthropology courses are research-based, organized around topics to which anthropologists contribute, and taught by specialists who contribute to these topics. Teaching to both Anthropology majors and majors in other disciplines places a burden on our majors to link topics to issues, methods, approaches in Anthropology that needs to include more reference back to perspectives and methods (ANTH 200, 201)

Testing and writing requirements in mid-level courses that are adequate for assessing performance in individual courses serving multiple constituencies and distribution requirements in other programs may not be sufficiently cumulative or integrative for majors to connect them specifically to the discipline.

Curricular Improvements

- 1) Advising needs to be firmer and more consistent, particularly for students who switch into the major after the Freshman year.
- 2) The Dictionary of Anthropology, which majors are required to buy in ANTH 200 and advised to keep for reference, is to be listed as recommended reading for majors on the syllabuses of all Anthropology courses above 200 to emphasize its use as a reference work.
- 3) Upon enrolling as an Anthropology concentrator, students will be given a copy of the Senior Assessment Rubric as a statement of goals and standards (performance) for the program in addition to the Advising Guidelines on how to construct a major (structure).
- 4) To ensure that students progress appropriately within limitations of what four (and three in 2011-12) full-time faculty supplemented by three instructors can offer, majors were not allowed to preregister in Spring 2011 without having consulted their advisors and filing the Advising Report sheet with the Department.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
 Planning, Institutional Research, Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

UNDERGRADUATE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION RESULTS
Department of Anthropology
AY2009-2010 through AY2010-2011

	Fail		Pass		High Pass		Pass w/Distinction		Pass w/Honors		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
AY2009-2010	1	12.50%	7	87.50%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	8
AY2010-2011	0	0.00%	4	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	4

Note: 1) The count of comps outcomes is based on the number of attempts taken by the students.

2) Students were included in the categories High Pass, Pass with Distinction, and Pass with Honors if these designations were explicitly

indicated in the student's milestone record. Please contact the Office of Planning, Institutional Research, Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

if these designations can also be determined through the student's final grade in the comprehensive requirement.

3) To preserve confidentiality, if fewer than 5 students took comps during the period under study, the related data should be considered

confidential and should not be cited or analyzed in the Annual Assessment Findings Report.

4) AY2009-2010 includes the summer 2009, fall 2009, and spring 2010 semesters.

AY2010-2011 includes the summer 2010, fall 2010, and spring 2011 semesters.