

Annual Key Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements
Department of Anthropology
Master's Program in Anthropology
Doctoral Program in Anthropology (suspended admissions)
AY 2011-2012

Assessment Measures

The Department of Anthropology uses the following measures to assess departmental learning outcomes:

- Grades and enrollments
- Comprehensive examination
- Progression through the programs, April Audit
- Other

Assessment Findings

Enrollments:

PhD Students: During AY 2011-12, the Anthropology department graduated its final 'grandfathered' PhD student (October 2011). No new PhD students were admitted.

MA Students: Three MA students were in residence during AY 2011-12. Two graduated in May 2012. One continues on a full (Trustees') scholarship.

Grades in Courses:

Graduate students are evaluated individually in courses by the instructors, with progress reviewed annually by the Department in our April faculty meeting. All were found to be proceeding satisfactorily in their course work (receiving A or B in each), to be completing core courses and taking appropriate topics and area courses.

Comprehensive Examinations:

The number of students who took M.A. comprehensive examinations in AY2011-12 (one in Fall 2011 and one Spring 2012 who passed) is too small for statistical analysis. The data will be aggregated and reported in the department's five year report.

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

GRADUATE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION RESULTS Department of Anthropology AY2009-2010 through AY2011-2012

	Fail		Pass		High Pass		Pass w/Distinction		Pass w/Honors		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
MA program											
AY2009-2010	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1
AY2010-2011	0	0.00%	2	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2
AY2011-2012	0	0.00%	2	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2
PhD program											
AY2009-2010	0	0.00%	1	50.00%	0	0.00%	1	50.00%	0	0.00%	2
AY2010-2011	0	0.00%	3	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	3
AY2011-2012	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1

Progression Data:

Graduate enrollment has declined since admission for the PhD was terminated in 2002, and the population of MA students has shifted from those preparing for the PhD to students seeking either to improve their credentials or to test their interest/abilities for graduate-level work. We expect remaining doctoral students to finish within the next academic year.

Time to Degree: Now that our MA is no longer a step toward the PhD, times to completion of the MA have uniformly shrunk to the nominally anticipated two years.

Comprehensive Examinations: MA students are now taking comprehensive examinations in their fourth semester, as expected, instead of accumulating additional coursework in anticipation of continuing for the PhD.

Curricular Improvements

We have structured the MA to accommodate more diverse student interests and goals in seeking the MA (as described in our report for 2003-07) than preparation for the PhD. It requires core courses (in theory and methods) in the first two semesters, and a distribution of topical and area (regional) courses, with options to write a thesis or to take a non-thesis option (research papers developed in student/faculty research tutorials). This is not a 'program' of set courses but a framework for graduate study that matches student interests with existing faculty expertise that we review annually in conjunction with our long-range plans to add faculty specializing in contemporary population movements.

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