

Annual Key Assessment Findings Report
Department of Anthropology
BA Program in Anthropology
Academic Year 2011-2012

The rubrics developed during 2008-2009 were used to evaluate the Senior Comprehensive Exams, which form one portion of our Senior Assessment (along with Senior Option papers and an optional Senior Thesis). Their effectiveness for grading the exams and for incorporating grades in the senior capstone options are reviewed in our March faculty meetings.

We continue to be unsatisfied with student performance in the identification of key concepts section of the exam and weaknesses in the analytical portion. We are working to advise more consistently completion of 100-level survey courses, which for majors introduce them to the scope of the discipline, at an early stage. We believe that the advice in our Advising Guidelines for Anthropology Majors, that these courses should be completed before attempting Senior Comps, needs to be reaffirmed in advising, and are now making that a requirement.

In our scheme, 100-level survey courses introduce the scope of the discipline; ANTH 200 and 201 introduce analytical perspectives and methods of study; mid-level Anthropology courses (200-499) 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 addressing. Should these include more reference back to perspectives and methods, and how can that be balanced with teaching general social science courses?

Testing and writing requirements in mid-level courses that are adequate for assessing performance in those 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.

Decisions:

- 1) Advising needs to be made 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 now 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 are 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 full-time faculty supplemented by three instructors can offer, majors will not be allowed to preregister 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 AY2011-2012

	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
AY2011-2012	0	0.00%	2	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2

After this year's small graduating class, the decline indicated above is set to reverse in coming years, with a rising senior class of 5 for the coming year and between 5 to 7 students in succeeding cohorts. That is, our gross number of majors has stabilized at just above 20, with growing numbers of Freshman students declaring Anthropology majors upon matriculation or in their first year, which optimizes timely completion of courses and in proper sequence.

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Anthropology Department