

Department of Anthropology
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan

Date: July 2026

Degree Program: Master of Arts (MA) in Anthropology

Mission Statement: The UAF Department of Anthropology is committed to scholarship and research in anthropology with a general geographic focus on the circumpolar regions of the north as well as research and instruction covering a variety of world areas and topical subjects. The teaching and research activities in the department cover the four subfields of the discipline: archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistic and social/cultural anthropology. The graduate program offers students the opportunity to concentrate study in one of the four subfields, to gain research experience and methodological training in the field and in the laboratory, and emphasizes empirical and applied studies.

Goal Statement: To assure that graduates are prepared to mobilize their training and knowledge of anthropology either to compete successfully in the job market in their chosen subfield or related areas or to compete successfully for admission to institutions of higher learning to pursue further graduate or professional education.

Intended Objectives/Outcomes	Assessment Criteria	Implementation Procedures
1. Anthropology MA students must demonstrate robust understanding of anthropological theory in the areas of the discipline that inform each student's intellectual and professional goals.	Student's ability to synthesize a wide array of theoretical anthropological concepts across major schools of thought in the field of anthropology is tested using a timed comprehensive exam. The exam is based on a robust bibliography of approximately twenty-five recognized scholarly works, approved by the student's Graduate Advisory Committee. Assessment criteria are based on the following questions: - Does the coverage of the literature demonstrate sufficient awareness of the relevant theoretical concepts? Are there critically important concepts which the student had to discuss but did not? - Does the student demonstrate robust ability to connect anthropological concepts across	After the completion of the exam—typically during the student's third semester of graduate study—the advisory committee evaluates the exam with a High Pass / Pass / Unsatisfactory grading system. Formal rubrics will be used for evaluation. Grades will be reported in the corresponding SLOA form and recommendations for improvements will be communicated to the full faculty for discussion during an annual SLOA meeting.

	a wide range of perspectives on a specific, yet broad, area in the study of the human condition that is central to student's expressed interests and to the goals of the student's MA degree? - Are there prominent critiques of the given anthropological concept that the student must engage in the response to the exam questions/prompts but has not?	
2. Anthropology MA students must demonstrate competence in the research methods they will need to conduct research and work professionally as an anthropologist.	Student's awareness of the relevant research methods is tested using a timed comprehensive exam that is based on a robust bibliography of approximately twenty-five scholarly works, approved by the student's Graduate Advisory Committee. Assessment criteria are based on the following questions: - Does the coverage of the literature demonstrate proficiency in the relevant research methods? - Are there specific literature sources on anthropological research methods that require a more robust engagement in the student's response to the exam question/prompt?	After the completion of the exam—typically during the student's third semester of graduate study—the advisory committee evaluates the exam with a High Pass / Pass / Unsatisfactory grading system. Formal rubrics will be used for evaluation. Grades are reported in the corresponding SLOA form and recommendations for improvements are communicated to the full faculty for discussion during an annual SLOA meeting.
3. Anthropology MA students are expected to specialize in anthropological scholarship on a study within a geographic study region and/or as relevant to a population or social-cultural group (for example, Dene societies of Alaska and Canada, Latin American immigrant or diaspora communities, knowledge bearers engaged in a specific religious, economic, or material practice, etc.).	Student's proficiency in the knowledge of anthropology literature focusing on a culture/community/region is tested using a timed comprehensive exam that is based on the bibliography of approximately twenty-five scholarly works, approved by the student's Graduate Advisory Committee. Assessment criteria are based on the following questions:	After the completion of the exam—typically during the student's third semester of graduate study—the advisory committee evaluates the exam with a High Pass / Pass / Unsatisfactory grading system. Formal rubrics will be used for evaluation. Grades are reported in the corresponding SLOA form and recommendations for improvements are communicated to the full faculty

	- Does the coverage of the literature demonstrate sufficient awareness of the relevant scholarship on the study region/population(s) important for the student MA research? - Are there sources on the history and culture(s) of the study region that require a deeper engagement in the student's response to the exam question/prompt?	for discussion during an annual SLOA meeting.
4. Students must demonstrate (1) capacity to integrate analytical skills across the main anthropological subfields, and (2) proficiency in broad disciplinary thinking as applied to specific anthropological topics and to a unique set of research questions to be addressed in the MA thesis.	SLO 4(1): The MA requires successful completion of ANTH 629 (Structures of Anthropological Argument). Students complete a series of written assignments in this course, which is team-taught by 2-3 faculty members (including the Graduate Program Coordinator) practicing in different subfields of anthropology. SLO 4(2) The MA requires successful completion of ANTH 652 (Research Design and Professional Development). Students complete a full draft of a research proposal as their main deliverable in this course. The proposal written for the course is subsequently finalized under the supervision of the Graduate Advisory Committee to meet the requirement for the major MA degree milestone that is the thesis proposal.	To gauge achievement of SLO 4(1), students' written assignments will be evaluated by the co-instructors of ANTH 629. Formal rubrics will be used for evaluation and the responses will be compiled by the Graduate Program Coordinator and distributed to the full faculty for discussion during an annual SLOA meeting. To gauge achievement of SLO 4(2), the proposal draft is evaluated by the ANTH 652 course instructor and student's committee chair to assess the student's capacity to develop a robust research proposal outline and effectively describe all the necessary components of a full research proposal.

5. Students will be able to (1) develop original research and (2) present it in a variety of public and scholarly settings.	SLO 5(1): The MA requires successful completion of a master's thesis. The thesis provides opportunity for students to develop original research. SLO 5(2): The MA requires successful completion of ANTH 652 (Research Design and Professional Development). Students receive training in participating in professional societies (writing and submitting abstracts and giving a professional presentation) in ANTH 652 Research Design and Professional Development. Thesis defense gives students the opportunity to present their original research to the public.	To gauge achievement of SLO 5(1), the advisory committee will evaluate the thesis manuscript until approved for defense. To gauge achievement of SLO 5(2), the instructor of 652 will evaluate the students' presentations and their related abstracts. Formal rubrics will be used and the results will be shared with the full faculty for discussion during an annual SLOA meeting.
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