



Anthropology Program Review 2021-2022

Closing MOU

Date: August 18, 2022

Overview

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| Degree/Certificate Programs Reviewed: | Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology Master of Arts, Anthropology Ph.D. in Anthropology |
| Department Chair & Dean: | Christopher Morgan, Chair; Casilde Isabelli, Dean |
| External Reviewers & Affiliation: | Dr. Tosha Lea Dupras, Department of Anthropology, University of Central Florida Dr. C. Michael Barton, School of Human Evolution & Social Change, Arizona State University Dr. Sean O’Neill, Department of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma |
| Date of External Visit: | February 24 – 25, 2022 |

Review Process Summary

The Anthropology program was scheduled for regular program review as mandated by the Board of Regents and University policy. A self-study document for the department and its programs was developed by the department faculty and completed in the Fall of 2021 for Anthropology programs. These respective reports were provided to the reviewers before they conducted a virtual visit on February 24 – 25, 2022. The external reviewers reviewed the program and met with relevant faculty, staff, students and administrators to determine the department’s accomplishments, examine strengths and weaknesses, and identify opportunities as it plans for the future. A final report was issued by the review team shortly after the review visit. In accordance with institution practice, responses to the review were solicited from the department and the dean. A final meeting took place on August 18, 2022. This document represents the final MOU of recommendations and findings from the review.

Signatures

Executive Vice President &
Provost:

Jeffrey S. Thompson

Date: _____

Vice Provost, Undergraduate
Education:

David Shintani

Date: _____

Vice Provost, Graduate Education
& Dean, Graduate School

Markus Kemmelmeier

Date: _____

Dean, College of Liberal Arts

Casilde Isabeli

Date: _____

Chair, Department XX

Christopher Morgan

Date: _____

Major Findings and Conclusions

Anthropology is an academic discipline that operates at the crossroads of the physical sciences, social sciences, and humanities to examine the diversity of human experience across culture and time. Anthropologists in the department study everything from human evolution to prehistory to life in a globalizing world. Because of this breadth of focus, anthropology is highly relevant to understanding and living in a rapidly changing world. The Department of Anthropology at the University of Nevada, Reno is home to an active community of scholars including specialists in archaeology, cultural anthropology, linguistics, and biological anthropology. We offer a wide range of courses in each of these subdisciplines and many research opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students. The department offers Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Ph.D. degrees. Students have opportunities for training in a variety of laboratories and research programs including the anthropology of migration, the anthropology of religion, the anthropology of law, language endangerment and revitalization, the historical archaeology of the American West, the prehistoric archaeology of worldwide hunter-gatherers, archaeometry and paleoecology, collaborative archaeology, forensics, and bioarchaeology. The department takes a four-field approach to understanding humans and emphasizes collaborative research that cross-cuts anthropological subfields and other disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, and physical sciences.

Major Findings and Conclusions:

- Growth of in the department's extramural research funding and graduate programs require additional administrative support.
- The reviewers recommended the department prioritize the hiring of an additional Biological Anthropology faculty to address the growth and success of this graduate program. They also suggested that the department prioritize a second faculty hire that could help maintain

a balanced faculty to address its four-core discipline approach to educating Anthropology professionals.

- The Archaeology and Biological Anthropology disciplines have been highly successful in both their research endeavors and at attracting large numbers of undergraduate and graduate students. Unfortunately, this department lacks sufficient laboratory space that can safely accommodate the use of toxic and caustic chemical and biological reagents that are routinely used in Archaeological and Biological Anthropological research and teaching. Currently, faculty research labs are also being used as teaching laboratories. Dedicated “wetlab” teaching space is needed to provide students with a safe and learning environment that does not impact faculty research productivity.
- While the reviewers commended the department on the quality of its undergraduate programs, but were surprised by the lack of growth in the number of majors. They recommended that the program review their undergraduate curriculum and program policies and identify ways to increase the number of Anthropology majors.
- The success of the Anthropology graduate has been highly successful to the point that the department needs to consider how to maintain and sustain the quality of the program with finite funding, space and faculty resources. The reviewers suggested that the department begin setting a limit on graduate admissions to address departmental capacity and the market need for Anthropology PhDs and Masters Graduates.
- Due to the high demand in the public and private sector for persons with Cultural Resource Management (CRM) MA degrees, the reviewers suggested that the department consider developing this graduate degree option for their students.
- The reviewers commented on the department's work to comply with the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) in returning Native American remains and related artifacts to the appropriate tribal communities. They felt that the university's hiring of a NAGPRA coordinator to oversee and coordinate these efforts was a clear sign of their commitment to addressing this culturally sensitive issue.

Next Steps for this Program/Department (topics will vary)

The department and college have prioritized increasing administrative support to the department as funds become available.

The department and college are committed to finding “wetlab” teaching space to relieve the burden on faculty research space.

The department is committed to the success of their faculty. As such, they will develop a mentoring program that will not only support junior faculty progression to tenure, but also facilitate the progression of Associate Professors to the rank of full professor.

To drive increased undergraduate enrollments, retention and degree attainment the department and college propose the following:

- 1) Create a departmental committee to address curricular and engagement activities that promote

student retention and progression in the major.

- 2) Develop attractive lower division anthropology course offerings to entice undeclared and undecided students to the major.
- 3) Conduct a review of the anthropology undergraduate curriculum to address potential barriers to student success and to develop strategies to best utilization of faculty and existing teaching resources.
- 4) Develop online course offerings to provide increased access and flexibility to working and non-traditional students.

To maintain the success of the Anthropology graduate programs in a sustainable manner, the department and college propose the following:

- 1) Develop a graduate admission strategy that optimizes enrollments in relationship to actual funding, space and resource availability.
- 2) Continue to promote Anthropology graduate students success by communicating clear expectations for degree attainment and offering professional development opportunities.
- 3) Investigate the development of a Cultural Resource Management (CRM) MA degree option to address the demand for CRM professionals in the private and public sectors.

The department and college are committed to work with the UNR Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Coordinator to return Native American remains and artifacts to the appropriate Native American communities.

Vital Statistics on NSHE Reports

Number of students with declared major in the program area:

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|---------|------------------|-----|
| 2021-22 | Anthropology BA | 128 |
| | Anthropology MA | 23 |
| | Anthropology PhD | 39 |

Number of graduates from the program for the following years:

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|---------|------------------|----|
| 2019-20 | Anthropology BA | 39 |
| | Anthropology MA | 7 |
| | Anthropology PhD | 3 |
| 2020-21 | Anthropology BA | 39 |
| | Anthropology MA | 4 |
| | Anthropology PhD | 1 |
| 2021-22 | Anthropology BA | 35 |
| | Anthropology MA | 6 |
| | Anthropology PhD | 4 |

Program-level graduation rate using first-time, full-time, degree-seeking cohort at 150 percent completion time:

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|---------|------------------|-------------|
| 2019-20 | Anthropology BA | 33.3%, n=6 |
| | Anthropology MA | 50.0%, n=8 |
| | Anthropology PhD | 100%, n=2 |
| 2020-21 | Anthropology BA | 62.5%, n=18 |
| | Anthropology MA | 83.3%, n=6 |
| | Anthropology PhD | 60%, n=5 |
| 2021-22 | Anthropology BA | 27.8%, n=18 |
| | Anthropology MA | 66.7%, n=6 |
| | Anthropology PhD | 66.7%, n=3 |

Headcount of students enrolled in any course related to the program (duplicated):

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|---------|------------------|------|
| 2021-22 | Anthropology BA | 2378 |
| | Anthropology MA | 220 |
| | Anthropology PhD | 220 |