



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN WHITEWATER

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

ANTHROPOLOGY MINOR

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Anthropology Minor at UW-Whitewater is to provide students a unique way of looking at the world and its problems by giving them the skills and knowledge necessary to discern problems and evaluate solutions in ways that are both rigorous and culturally relative. Students in this minor will also enhance their abilities to appreciate the rich diversity of human cultures both past and present.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student learning outcomes (SLOs) are statements of what a student will know or be able to do when they have completed a program. They represent the knowledge and skills a program has determined are most important for students to gain from that program. The most useful SLOs are specific and measurable so the program can accurately assess the degree to which students have achieved each outcome, and they align with college and institution mission and values. Data on achievement of SLOs is used to make improvements in the program and increase student success.

Anthropology Minor graduates will have:

- Knowledge of human cultures thus be able to **describe** the way of life of urban and rural/indigenous people in several cultures around the world that are different from their natal culture. In doing this, they should be able to **articulate** the major issues affecting cultures around the world such as access/rights to water and land; AIDS/HIV and other health and medical issues; preservation of cultural traditions/heritage; the nature and history of inequalities of race, class, gender, ethnicity, etc.
- Critical thinking skills to be able to **separate** data from theoretical perspectives, **assess** data sources for accuracy and appropriateness, **recognize** assumptions and biases in the presentation of information in written and other sources, and **extrapolate** the implications and potential consequences of actions. Anthropologists in particular should also develop the ability to **distinguish** between and, to some degree, **reconcile** the differences between etic observations of societies and the emic experiences of those that live in them.
- Written and oral communication skills such that students should be able to **present** relatively long and relatively complex ideas both in written and oral form.

- Information literacy and be able to **demonstrate** how information on Anthropological topics is collected and/or created (through experiments, informant interviews, etc., e.g.). They should be able to **locate and retrieve** information from a variety of sources relevant to relevant topics, including scholarly databases, the internet, print sources, government documents, etc.
- Intercultural knowledge so students should **feel** comfortable with reading about, observing, and interacting with people from different cultural backgrounds than themselves and be able to do so in ways that **reflect** a respect and understanding of different cultural traditions.
- Ethical reasoning by **demonstrating** an ability to understand multiple perspectives on a subject and to effectively **argue** for a stance that is in keeping with Anthropological values such as cultural relativity, objectivity, stewardship, etc. Student work and conduct should **reflect** the ethics codes of the major professional societies in the U.S. including the American Anthropological Association (AAA) and the Society for American Archaeology (SAA).
- Synthetic and integrative learning skills such that students should be able to **collect** information, **assess** its reliability, **analyze** its content, **relate** it to existing ideas, and **expand** upon it in a way that is both sensitive to cultural issues and pragmatic. Student research and internships are encouraged to enhance attainment of this goal.