

Executive Summary

Q:
A brief recap or highlights of the entire program review document. (500 words or less)

- Highlight major strengths and weakness.
- Highlight areas for improvement over the next 3-6 years.

Response:

The mission of the Anthropology Department is to provide instruction that emphasizes critical thinking and intellectual development while providing students with an understanding of humankind from the broadest possible perspectives - exploring human differences and similarities across the world and through time. The Anthropology program supports the institutional mission by providing a pathway to an associate degree and transfer.

Enrollment in Anthropology courses has grown between Fall 2009 and Fall 2014, with some ups and downs in between reflecting overall college trends. The average class size for the department is consistently higher than that of the college as a whole and has also increased over time. Due to the high demand for Anthropology 101 and supporting data from the student survey we plan to develop a new natural sciences course, Introduction to Primates. We embrace our role as part of the general education program, offering courses in three different GE areas.

With the increase in enrollment we are almost always running two classes simultaneously, but only have dedicated access to a single classroom. Having a second dedicated classroom would also allow us to place instructional tools (such as maps) in that room and to generally make the room more welcoming to our students. A regular supply budget and the purchase of additional DVDs and lab equipment would also enhance the program. No new full-time faculty are needed at this time, but that may change if the program continues to grow.

The Anthropology data for success and retention are a little higher than those for the college as a whole. On student surveys, the department does well in comparison to the college in terms of course quality and availability. Course SLO assessments show that most students are achieving course outcomes. Anthropology mirrors the college in equity gaps for African American and Hispanic students and in having significantly lower success and retention rates for online versus face-to-face classes. The individual courses with the lowest success rates were Anthropology 101 and 141. We plan to archive Anthropology 141 and continue to focus professional development activities on Anthropology 101.

Since 2005-2006, the Anthropology Department has awarded a total of 30 AA degrees, 5 of which were the recently approved AA-T. We plan to archive the traditional AA degree and the cultural competency certificate. A department survey last year showed that we have a large number of majors for a small program, although many are choosing to transfer without earning an AA degree.

Two keys to our long-term plans are the new student group, the Anthropology Society, and a focus on professional development. The Anthropology Society allows us to provide mentoring and offers an opportunity for students to be more involved in the campus and to interact with faculty outside the classroom. Professional development is key to our goals to increase success and retention in Anthropology 101 and to reduce achievement gaps in Anthropology courses overall.

Participants

Q: Please indicate the individuals that participated in the completion of this program review.

Response:

All full-time faculty participated in the completion of program review:

Rebecca Frank
Eugene Scott
Rebecca Stein

Modules were discussed at different department meetings to which adjunct faculty were invited and occasionally attended. Input on supply requests was actively solicited from all adjunct instructors.

Q:

Response:

*Reviewed. KD

This module adequately summarizes the program review. -MJ

Comments for Review Committees

Q:

Response:

This module adequately summarizes the program review. -MJ