

**Department of Anthropology  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Assessment Program March 2009**

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Our program serves nearly 200 undergraduate majors as well as about 100 graduate students. Our undergraduate degree program provides our students with strong comparative perspectives on human diversity and history, and trains them to think critically, conduct research, and to present and communicate anthropological research and knowledge to scholarly and public audiences. The B.A./B.S. in Anthropology is an ideal stepping-stone to a scholarly career in the social and biological sciences, to professions with a strong international focus, or to careers in law, medicine, and policy. Our Ph.D. program is designed for advanced students who wish to develop research and professional careers in one or more subdisciplines within the field, Archaeology, Biological Anthropology and Cultural Anthropology.

**Undergraduate:** In addition to ongoing evaluation of undergraduate student learning of the three anthropological subfields and of diversity, we undertook an online senior student survey in late Fall 2008 and are preparing to evaluate the data during the Spring 2009 semester. We have also sent out a survey of students from the past 2 years to find out where they are now and if their anthropological training has been instrumental in their academic or professional careers. This will help us to evaluate the impact of our introductory level courses and seminars.

Evaluation of undergraduate seminars (Anthro 490) has shown that students in the discussion and writing intensive seminars have benefited both through improved grades and also in awards for writing projects stemming from these classes. Most of the senior thesis students have started their projects in the undergraduate seminar program.

**Graduate:** More rigorous annual assessment on an individual level is an ongoing process that has resulted in more timely completion of preliminary exams and the final oral defense of the dissertation. Graduate students who are TAs are evaluated each semester by the faculty, and this has improved their teaching as reflected in undergraduate evaluations of teaching. This has also improved the overall undergraduate evaluations of the courses as a whole.

Ultimately the assessment of graduate training is revealed in the success rate of graduates in applying for grants and in publication. During the spring semester, the Graduate program will be reviewing the accomplishments of the students over the past year and compare this with results from 2007-08.