



DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON

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November 26, 2012

To: Gary Sandefur, Dean, Letters and Science
From: Sissel Schroeder, Professor, Department of Anthropology
RE: Five-Year Review of the Archaeology Certificate

On behalf of the Archaeology Certificate Program and the Department of Anthropology, which is the administrative home for the Certificate, I am pleased to present this report on the program.

Recommendation regarding program continuation:

The Archaeology Certificate is popular among students, successfully preparing them for careers in archaeology and graduate school, and we strongly recommend that the program be continued.

Program description and context, including mission, requirements, learning goals, relationship to other units:

Brief History:

The Archaeology Certificate was developed by the archaeology faculty in the Department of Anthropology in consultation with faculty in other departments who were teaching course content relevant to the discipline of archaeology. It was designed to provide students interested in archaeology, no matter what their major in L&S, with a structure to ensure that they gain a breadth and depth of knowledge in comparative world archaeology, archaeological methods of data analysis, and skills in excavation and/or survey, and an opportunity to synthesize these aspects of their education through a capstone seminar (Anthro. 490) on an archaeology topic. The Spring 2004 semester is the first one in which students declared the major, and was also the first year for a graduating cohort – 7 of the first cohort were L&S students, 1 was an Engineering student.

Mission:

Ancient history is a puzzle made up of innumerable fragments – pieces of bone, pottery, stone, and metal; remnants of architecture and monuments; residues of food; and traces of other things. Archaeology is the field of study that provides the tools to discover these fragments and piece them together to reconstruct a picture of the ancient world and to illuminate the stories of past peoples. An accurate understanding of the past is critical for developing a better present and future.

The Archaeology Certificate is designed to help students obtain a global and interdisciplinary perspective on archaeology and human culture and to gain many of the skills needed to analyze archaeological materials and conduct archaeological field investigations. Through their participation in the Archaeology Certificate program, students acquire an understanding of how past societies in different regions of the world have successfully or, in many cases, unsuccessfully dealt with adaptation to their environment and interaction with other communities. Students also gain a better appreciation of the diversity of human culture and increased respect for the differences that have resulted from millennia of social, economic, political and ideological developments. Students are able to explore the origins of subsistence strategies, trade, technology, belief systems, and conflict that are still relevant to our modern world, as well as ever changing global economic and political situations.

The Archaeology Certificate provides an interdisciplinary linkage among courses in several departments and stimulates students to think about similar topics from different academic and theoretical perspectives. Through the curriculum, students get training specific to archaeology. In addition to providing students with a mechanism for developing an understanding of archaeology in its broadest sense, the Archaeology Certificate provides a strong intellectual foundation and skills for future careers and graduate study in archaeology and related fields. Students who successfully complete the Certificate, along with a BA or BS degree from UW-Madison, improve their competitiveness in graduate school applications and, more importantly, have documentation that they are qualified for entry-level employment opportunities in archaeology.

Program requirements:

21 credits of specified coursework distributed among at least three particular departments and among different categories of courses as follows:

- 3 credits of Introductory Courses (Anthro 102, 105, or 112)
- 6 credits in Area Courses
- 6 Credits in Methods Courses (formerly just “Topics” Courses)
- 3 credits of a summer Archaeological Field Course (or substitute with permission)
- 3 credits of Capstone Seminar on an Archaeology topic (Anthro 490)
(or graduate level archaeology seminar)

“Area Courses” focus on regional issues in archaeology and provide the student with more specific knowledge on a geographic area. “Methods Courses” focus on analytical approaches and theory and ensure that the student has a strong foundation in methods and theory. This category was simply listed as “Topics Courses,” but this label is confusing for students (for example, Anthro. 310 Topics in Archaeology, meets the Area Course requirement for the Certificate, but it does not meet the Topics Course requirement). We propose replacing it with “Methods Courses” to more clearly indicate to students the nature of the requirement. “Archaeological Field Course,” or field schools, are taught during the summer and provide the student with practical hands-on experience in archaeology that is critical for professional development in the discipline. Together these complementary courses give the student a well-rounded education in the field of archaeology. (See also Figure 1).

The 21 credits must be selected from a list of pre-approved courses (although exceptions may be made when relevant new courses are developed) distributed among at least three of the departments listed below to meet the breadth requirement of the Archaeology Certificate:

Anthropology
Art History
*American Indian Studies
*Botany
*Environmental Studies
Zoology
Classics
History
Geography
Geology and Geophysics
Hebrew and Semitic Studies

(* designates departments not previously on this list)

A summary of proposed course additions, deletions and changes can be found in Table 1 (to be approved by the committee). An updated list of qualifying courses for the certificate (to be added to DARS, pending committee approval) can be found in Table 2.

A minimum 2.0 GPA must be earned on all course work attempted for the certificate program. The supervising faculty will be responsible for making the final decision regarding the fulfillment of this criterion and will notify the Department of Anthropology. The Department of Anthropology is responsible for issuing the certificate.

Certificate program course requirements can be met by courses approved for Credit/No Credit (CR/N) grading.

At least 50% of the credits applied toward the requirements of the certificate program must be taken in residence at UW - Madison. Credits earned by participation in a UW – Madison study abroad program are resident credits unless special considerations apply.

Substitution for courses prescribed in a certificate program may be recommended by the certificate program faculty to the student's Dean. In such cases, the substitute course(s) shall be considered for inclusion in the courses required for the certificate program. Directed study courses and non-UW-Madison equivalent transfer courses would constitute individual exceptions. Cross-listed courses will be allowed, but the student should be careful to enroll in the appropriate department in order to fulfill the certificate requirements.

Learning goals:

- acquire specialized training in archaeological research, which may include:
 - basic knowledge of and skills in observational methods and organized recording of information for a variety of lines of evidence
 - putting these abilities into practice in and out of class
 - learning to work in collaboration with other students, faculty, and professional archaeologists to conduct archaeological research
 - exercising and extending critical thinking skills through practice in the classroom, lab, and life outside the classroom
 - strengthening archaeological interpretations through reference to supporting evidence
 - developing basic research questions and the analytical skills necessary to address research questions
 - gaining knowledge of archaeological methods, theory, and interpretive frameworks
 - communicating archaeological findings through written and oral forms of expression
- obtain comparative global knowledge of archaeology, material culture, culture history, and the evolution of people's relationships with the physical and natural world
- gain an awareness of the ethics of archaeology and heritage preservation around the world
- synthesize information relevant to archaeology across multiple disciplines
- recognize the presence of the past every where in the world, and be able to distinguish between empirical and speculative narratives about the past

Relationship to other units:

The faculty in the Anthropology Department are responsible for the oversight and administration of the Archaeology Certificate. Students participating in the Certificate program come from a variety of majors, and the disciplinary breadth of the Certificate curriculum provides them with exposure to the interdisciplinary nature of archaeology. Courses offered in a number of departments count toward the Certificate.

Demonstrated need for the program, recruitment/outreach to populations served by the program:

Archaeology requires a breadth and depth of comparative knowledge, as well as experience with analytical methods and field methods. Because of federal laws that mandate archaeological investigation under a variety of circumstances, there is a need for well-trained individuals to labor in the field and the lab. While many of these employment opportunities are seasonal, some positions are year-round. The Certificate curriculum has been constructed to ensure that students who successfully complete the Certificate, along with a BA or BS degree from UW-Madison, have documentation that they are qualified for entry-level employment opportunities in archaeology.

Students are actively recruited in archaeology classes and at the annual undergraduate major fair.

Posters promoting the Archaeology Certificate are posted around the Anthropology Department and shared with participating faculty in other departments. Information about the Certificate is available on the Department of Anthropology web site.

Program administration and resources, including administrative and advising processes:

Prof. J. Mark Kenoyer volunteered as the first Faculty Coordinator and Certificate Advisor in 2004-2005. Prof. Sissel Schroeder volunteered as Faculty Coordinator and Certificate Advisor from 2005-2007 and 2008-2012. In Fall 2007 – Spring 2008, Prof. Jason Yaeger volunteered as Faculty Coordinator and Certificate Advisor. The Archaeology Certificate has a relatively informal administrative structure. The Faculty Coordinator/Certificate Advisor meets weekly with the Archaeology faculty in the Anthropology Department (archaeologists in other departments occasionally attend this meeting) to discuss policies, courses, student opportunities, programmatic changes, and future directions of the program, along with other administrative tasks not related to the Certificate. The Faculty Coordinator/Certificate Advisor is assisted by the Department of Anthropology Undergraduate Coordinator who provides students with information about the program, processes student declarations, processes the paperwork filed by students when they complete the Certificate Program, and reports this information to the L&S Dean’s Office or the Registrar’s Office. The Undergraduate Coordinator also ensures that each student completing the Certificate gets a paper document upon graduation acknowledging that they were awarded the Archaeology Certificate.

List of participating faculty and staff, with department affiliation noted:

See Table 3.

Total number of students enrolled/declared in the program:

See Table 4.

Average time for program completion:

The average number of semesters that students are declared as archaeology certificate students is 3.3; however, this number is deceptively low as many students do not declare the certificate until after they have taken a number of the qualifying classes or they realize that they have already met all the requirements for the certificate.

Courses actually offered or for which students received certificate program credit, by semester, including enrollment data for “core” (introductory) and/or “capstone” courses:

See Tables 5, 6, and 7.

Program completion - number of certificates awarded annually:

See Table 8. From 2004-2011, about 10 students received the certificate each year. The number of students graduating with a certificate per semester was determined using data from the Registrar’s Office. Note that these numbers are an underestimate of the number of students successfully completing the certificate requirements because there were some semesters when our office was understaffed and the certificate paperwork was not processed. Most students

completing the certificate are in the College of Letters and Science, but students in Engineering and in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences have also completed the certificate. Only degree seeking undergrad students may be admitted to the archaeology certificate program, but we did allow two highly motivated and engaged special students to complete the archaeology certificate.

Assessment of student learning - assessment plan and summary of annual assessment activities:

A semi-formal assessment process has been in place since the Archaeology Certificate was initiated, but we plan on formalizing this process in the Spring 2013. Each graduating senior has an exit interview with the faculty advisor for the Certificate. During this meeting, the faculty advisor reviews the courses the student has taken to fulfill the requirements of the Certificate, verifies that the student has met the GPA requirement, and receives a verbal evaluation of their experiences, positive and negative, in the program. Outcomes of this semi-formal assessment process are listed below, each followed by a brief response statement:

- The category originally listed as “Topics Courses,” encompasses courses with a methodological or theoretical focus, which was confusing for students. For example, Anthro. 310 - Topics in Archaeology, meets the Area Course requirement for the Certificate, but it does not meet the Topics Course requirement.
 - We propose replacing “Topics Courses” with the label “Methods Courses” to more clearly indicate to students the nature of the requirement and to clarify to students the breadth component of the curriculum.
- The Methods/Topics courses are generally very hands-on and intensely experiential in nature, which means that they have relatively low enrollments, especially in the Anthropology Department. Students complained about the challenge of finding and successfully enrolling in courses that would meet this requirement.
 - We propose expanding the list of courses that fulfill the Methods/Topics requirement (see Table 1 for the list of courses to add, pending committee approval).
- Through individual advising from the archaeology certificate faculty advisor and other archaeology faculty, students select archaeological field schools that best match up with their geographic area of interest and/or methodological/theoretical area of interest, while also meeting our expectations of what a field school should entail. Students consistently praise this approach, which often leads directly to employment opportunities or graduate study opportunities. Rarely, a student has a negative experience on a field school. When this happens, we no longer recommend the particular field school.
 - We will continue to provide individualized advising for students seeking field schools to attend.
- The student responses to the certificate are typically overwhelmingly positive. Many students completing the certificate go on to be successfully employed as an archaeologist, or go to graduate school and complete MA, MS, or Ph.D. degrees in archaeology or related fields. For example, of the 6 students who were in the first cohort to complete the Archaeology Certificate in May 2004, one just finished his Ph.D. in Geography at UW-Madison, one worked as a field archaeologist for 5.5

years before taking the GIS skills she had augmented on the job into the public sector, one completed an MA in Archaeology at the University of Chicago where she is employed in the Oriental Institute, one completed a graduate degree at Arizona in Geology with a specialization in Geoarchaeology, one is currently a grad student at Brandeis University, and one worked for a short period of time in archaeology before following a different career path.

Figure 1. Requirements for the Archaeology Certificate (see next page)