Mission Statement

Anthropology —Bachelor of Art’s Degree

Undergraduate Academic Assessment Plan

**Program Mission**

Anthropology is the study of humankind. Of all the disciplines that examine aspects of human existence and accomplishments, only anthropology explores the entire panorama of the human experience from human origins to contemporary forms of culture and social life. It is a generalizing and comparative discipline with a concern for understanding human diversity on a global scale. Anthropologists engage in empirical research with established theories, methods, and analytical techniques. They conduct field-based research as well as laboratory analyses and archival investigations.

A hallmark of anthropology is its holistic perspective–understanding humankind in terms of the dynamic interrelationships of all aspects of human existence. Different aspects of culture and society exhibit patterned interrelationships (e.g., political economy, social configurations, religion and ideology). Culture cannot be divorced from biology and adaptation, nor language from culture. Contemporary societies cannot be understood without consideration of historical and evolutionary processes. With this perspective, anthropology intersects the multiple approaches to the study of humankind–biological, social, cultural, historical, linguistic, cognitive, material, technological, affective, and aesthetic. This interdisciplinarity is integrated within anthropology as a whole and formalized in the four major subfields that compose the discipline–archaeological, biological, linguistic, and sociocultural anthropology–although many anthropologists also conduct research across these subfields.

**Anthropology and CLAS / University Mission**

Anthropology students, including those attending the University of Florida, benefit from the holistic approach that intersects natural science, social science, and humanistic perspectives of the human condition. They become adept at understanding the cultural, biological, environmental, and historical bases for behaviors and precepts in their own and other societies. The self-reflection that results from applying the holistic approach and comparative method provides a broadened world view, one that rejects naive ethnocentricism and is more open to acceptance of other ways of living. The development of these skillsets dovetails well with the intellectual core mission of both CLAS and the University of Florida. Students develop as global citizens, aware of the world around them–their similarities, differences, and inequalities with other peoples or groups. These skills closely match with the internationalization goals of the University of Florida.

Anthropology students are poised to use anthropology in any career they choose to follow, or they may choose to make anthropology their career. Anthropology students are trained in the full suite of liberal arts skills–oral and written communication, interpersonal skills, problem-solving, research, and critical thinking–needed for success in a variety of careers. These skills provide flexibility in career mobility, forming a foundation for life-long learning as employment possibilities are continually transformed.

**Program: Anthropology Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**

https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/liberalarts/alc/Anthropology.aspx

**Content**

1. IDENTIFY, DESCRIBE, EXPLAIN, And APPLY factual, conceptual, and procedural knowledge in the four subfields of anthropology (cultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistics).

(\*ALL CAPS above indicate changes to be made to UF Catalog Anthropology SLOs.)

**Critical Thinking**

1. Apply the scientific approach to investigate human variation in its biological, social and cultural dimensions.
2. Draw appropriate and alternative conclusions from comparative analysis of human diversity.
3. Identify and evaluate knowledge claims from a culturally and historically relativistic standpoint.

1. Integrate different sources and types of knowledge into holistic perspectives about human variation.
2. Evaluate the significance, quality and veracity of information and apply it effectively to solve problems.

**Communication**

1. Articulate anthropological knowledge professionally in written and verbal form.