

Using results for planning curricular revisions

Anthropology

FINAL SUMMARY- ACTION ITEMS ARISING FROM 06-07 ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

In addition to promoting and reviewing the continuing outcome assessments of student learning by the faculty involved in field research methods (Outcome 1), the core curriculum (Outcome 2) and professional communication (Outcome 3), the anthropology department will-

1. Revise the core course in cultural anthropology to eliminate the substantial field work component and introduce a new field methods class. Field methods and practical experience in field work will be covered in a new field methods course under development, and in ethnographic field schools, and consequently will involve enough time and faculty supervision of student work to allow for thorough learning. This will also contribute to improvement in what appear to be student learning deficits in ethnological knowledge, because ethnology can now be the main topic in the cultural anthropology core course, and will provide for an extended discussion of ethical issues, in the core course, in the field school and in the new field methods course. (From Outcome 2, Assessment 1)
2. Explore the feasibility of creating some internships. (Outcome 2, Assessment 2)
3. Begin the process of establishing a Baylor chapter of Lambda Alpha, the national honor society for anthropology students, in order to provide our students with the ability to compete for national scholarships. (Outcome 2, Assessment 2)
4. Create a senior seminar to offer the following features:
 - a. A vehicle for completing instruction, and assessing, student learning of professional communication of research findings (to augment and perhaps streamline and standardize Outcome 3 assessments),
 - b. an opportunity to reinforce student understanding and appreciation of the holistic and unified nature of anthropology as a bio-cultural field (Outcome 2, Assessment 2), and
 - c. a venue for eliciting more comprehensive and representative student input into the improvement of our program (Outcome 2, Assessment 2).

English

"Next fall, on the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, we will begin offering sections of sophomore literature for majors only, one each of British and American literature. Also, those faculty who scored the papers recommend discussions among the faculty who teach the upper-level courses to share and coordinate information about writing assignments such as the requirements and due dates. The director of Undergraduate Studies will organize these discussions."

Environmental Science

“Core course sequence needs revision – the data also suggest that revision of the core course list might help to provide further writing training. The students identified only 3 of the 5 core courses as highly effective in teaching professional writing. Core course options that emphasize writing training specifically oriented toward professional employment could improve student outcomes...”