UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS
ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT PLAN
Requirements, Template, and Example

Requirements

1. *Submit with New Program Proposal*
    a. *Programs are encouraged to consult with the Office of University Assessment.*
    b. *Contact information assessment@uca.edu*
2. *Send copy of Assessment Plan to the Office of University Assessment, Wingo 215.*
3. *Update the Program Assessment Plan based upon EAPR or Accreditation Cycles.*

Basic Information

Program Name: Anthropology

College: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Department: Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology

Program Level (check all that apply)

- ☐ Associate's
- X Bachelor's
- ☐ Undergraduate Certificate
- ☐ Master's
- ☐ Doctoral
- ☐ Graduate Certificate

Date Plan Submitted: 9/26/2025

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College Curriculum Committee Chairperson & Email: Wendy Lucas (Wendyc@uca.edu)
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1. **Introduction** (identify college, unit, and degree programs)
    - The Anthropology program is housed in the Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology within the College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences. UCA offers a single degree in anthropology: the Bachelor of Science degree.
    - The Anthropology program aims to provide students with opportunities to learn numerous conceptual and analytical strategies necessary for a deeper understanding of the human species. Anthropology is the cross-cultural and comparative study of human species and all our immediate ancestors. Students pursuing degrees in anthropology develop a broad understanding of human behavior, culture, and the relationship between humans and the environment. Anthropologists examine these attributes as they exist in all times and all places from our evolutionary beginnings some 6 million years ago to our present worldwide cultural and biological diversity. Anthropology courses are focused on scientific

methodology and the skills necessary for cross-cultural and comparative studies of humans. The required and elective courses associated with the anthropology degree build an educational foundation for careers in fields such as archaeology (cultural resource management), cultural research, museum curation, and human services. For more information about the degree program structure see the **ANTH BS Checklist**.

- The mission of the Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology is to provide students with opportunities to learn the conceptual perspectives and analytical tools necessary for understanding critical patterns of human behavior past, present, and in comparative perspective. The academic disciplines housed in this unit emphasize scholarly objectivity, theoretical knowledge, empirical skills, and communication practices related to the scientific investigation, evaluation, and management of human concerns.

2. Student Outcomes

- Statistical literacy: 100% of students will complete an introductory statistics course. Benchmark: 85% of students will earn a "C" or better (for example, SOC 2321: Social Statistics) indicating basic proficiency in the skillset.
- Methodological competence: 100% of students will complete a research methods course and 85% of students will earn "C" or better in research methodology (ANTH 3321: Qualitative Research Methods).
- Theory knowledge: 100% will complete a social theory course and 85% of students will earn a "C" or better in a social theory course (ANTH 4380: Anthropological Theory)
- Research performance: 100% of students will complete a senior research thesis paper and 85% of students will demonstrate proficient or advanced skills in relation to methods, data analysis, and results interpretation sections of the thesis paper (ANTH 4360: Senior Seminar).

3. Assessment Cycle*

- Assessment Cycle will be determined with assistance from the Office of Assessment

4. Curriculum Map*

- Office of Assessment will provide examples and consultative services to meet this requirement.

5. Assessment Methods and Measures (Formative and Summative recommended)

- **Statistical literacy**
  - Statistical literacy outcomes will be assessed based on student performance distribution in SOC 2321 (Social Statistics) where the grade is comprised of exams that measure proficiency in key components of statistics (See Rubric 1 for details about the coordination between exams and components of statistical literacy).
  - Please note that anthropology students are encouraged to take SOC 2321 to meet their statistics requirement, but other introductory statistics courses are sometimes substituted for this degree requirement.

- **Methodological competence**
  - Methodological competence outcomes will be assessed based on the student performance distribution in ANTH 3321 (Qualitative Research Methods). The grade for ANTH 3321 is based on a multi-part semester length project. (See Rubric 2 for details about the coordination between the project and components of methodological competence).

- **Theory knowledge**
    - Theory knowledge outcomes will be assessed based on the student performance distribution in ANTH 4380 (in Anthropological Theory) where the grade is comprised of an exam and a project that align with theory knowledge outcomes. (See Rubric 3 for details about the components of theory knowledge).

- **Research performance**
    - Research performance competence outcomes will be assessed based on the student performance on the final thesis paper in the program's capstone course: Senior Seminar (ANTH 4360). (See Rubric 4 for details about the components of research performance).

- **Overall performance**
    - The distribution of competence across the five areas (statistics, methods, theory, and research) will be recorded every semester where these courses are taught and compiled every academic year at the end of the spring semester.
    - Cohort performance will be tracked for each graduating class via Research Performance on final thesis projects produced in ANTH 4360.

6. Data Collection and Review

- When will data be collected for each outcome? Data will be collected at the close of every semester.
- How will data be collected for each outcome? Instructor of record will review student performance and report on performance after submitting final grades.
- What will be the benchmark/target for each outcome? (See Student Outcomes.)
- What individuals/groups will be responsible for data collection? Completed forms will be submitted to department chair for summarization and tracking.

7. Participation in Assessment Process

- Who will participate in carrying out the assessment plan? Faculty teaching required courses in statistics, research methods, theory, and the capstone course will all participate in data collection. Faculty engaged in independent study with students, internships, service learning, experiential learning, and club/honor society activities will also contribute to the data collection by reporting selected activities.
- The department chair with assistance from the department's Administrative Specialist, will be responsible for collating data submitted by faculty every semester and summarizing that data on an annual basis.
- The department chair will ensure that all data are stored properly and will ensure that all stored data and reports based on data comply with FERPA regulations.

8. Data Analysis

- Assessment data summaries will be made available to the faculty every year in the department's annual report.
- Every Spring, results will be discussed with program faculty in relation to benchmarks.
- If supplemental analyses are needed, a subcommittee of program faculty will be assembled to conduct additional analyses.

9. Plan for Using Assessment Results to Improve Program

How will you use the results to improve your program? Results will be summarized and analyzed after the first full year of implementation. Efforts will be made to track the relationship between concept performance at lower levels of the scaffold and capstone/career outcomes. Annual Spring meetings with program faculty will review outcomes and recommend necessary changes for the following academic year. Results will be compiled over time for use in Existing Academic Program Reviews.

10. What are the plans to evaluate students' post-graduate success?

Alums will be surveyed about career progress once a year after the first full year of implementation. Alums will be asked about career status, post-graduate applications of knowledge gained in the academic program, and post-graduate application of skills gained in the academic program. Post-UCA contact information will be collected from students as part of the senior capstone course (see Senior Exit Survey).

11. What are the plans to evaluate teaching effectiveness?

Teaching effectiveness will continue to be evaluated by the department chair on an annual basis using customary approaches that include review of syllabi content, review of assignments, review of student outcomes, and review of student evaluations. Untenured faculty, Lecturer I, and adjunct faculty will have an additional layer of review that involves at least one teaching observation every year. Peer-review of teaching will also be invoked at the request of the chair or on a voluntary basis at the request of any faculty member who needs additional support for teaching effectiveness. If concerns about an instructor's performance arise or if student outcomes fall below the desired threshold for two consecutive semesters, the pedagogical approach used in the course will be re-examined by the chair in consultation with the teachers assigned to the courses in question.

12. Appendices-Required….Curriculum Maps by Program, Assessment Tools (examples: Rubrics, Surveys, Tests, etc.), any other important materials/documentation

13. Submit Assessment Plan

- Send completed form electronically to assessment@uca.edu

For questions or concerns please contact:
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