

**OUTCOME ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR 2006-2007
MA IN SOUTHWEST STUDIES – ANTHROPOLOGY CONCENTRATION**

MISSION AND GOALS

I. Institutional Mission:

The NMHU mission has changed a number of times since the formation of the MA in Southwest Studies. It currently emphasizes “education through teaching, research and service.”

The Southwest Studies Program has been offered at New Mexico Highlands University since 1987. It is an interdisciplinary program, drawing on faculty and curricular resources that had formed part of independent graduate programs prior to that time. Dr. Gilbert Sánchez, president of NMHU, called for a redirection of the University and a comprehensive review of its academic programs in the fall of 1985. A task force was formed to conduct that review. It was charged with considering the enhancement, maintenance, reduction, or elimination of academic programs, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. It made its final report to the president on February 1, 1986.

In that report, the task force recommended the consolidation of various graduate programs or elements of programs into an M.A. in Southwest Studies. This program would be unique among the universities in New Mexico, gathering together as it would aspects of various disciplines relating to the Southwest. This uniqueness was the major rationale behind the establishment of the program.

Those programs to be integrated into the new Southwest Studies M.A. included History (M.A.), American Studies (M.A.), Social Science/Political Science (M.A.), Spanish (M.A.), and a new orientation in anthropology at the graduate level. A common core of courses, which all students had to take for the new M.A., was delineated, after which students could select courses in fields of concentration that included Anthropology, History/Political Science, and Hispanic Languages and Literature. Completion of a discipline-oriented research methods class and a thesis was required. Later the option of substituting two professional papers in lieu of the thesis was instituted in the History/Political Science Concentration.

A. Southwest Studies – Anthropology Concentration Goals

Because of its multi-ethnic composition, varied traditions and rich history, the Greater Southwest lends itself to varied academic studies. The Southwest Studies program marshals interdisciplinary resources in the study of anthropology, history, political science, and Hispanic language and literature of the Greater Southwest, including Northern New Mexico. The program focuses on history and prehistory, social, political, and cultural dynamics, and contemporary writers of the Greater Southwest. Students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the unique social and cultural makeup of the region and the complex human and natural dynamics that produced it. The program prepares students for positions in leadership roles in state, federal and

international agencies, consulting firms, human services, public-interest organizations, community college teaching, and train for entry level doctoral studies.

B. Program Support of the Mission Statement

The Southwest Studies Program – Concentration Anthropology, is linked to NMHU’s mission statement through its recognition and incorporation of the sociocultural diversity of the Greater Southwest, including Northern New Mexico, and its interdisciplinary academic approach to understanding and research of this multicultural region today and in the past.

II. Program Student Outcomes

Outcome 1 – Declarative Knowledge: Students are expected to demonstrate facts, definitions, and vocabulary in anthropology. In addition, students should demonstrate knowledge in the interdisciplinary contributions to the Greater Southwest and Northern New Mexico, including knowledge of the pre-Columbian and contemporary cultures and peoples; knowledge in one or more of the anthropological sub-disciplines; and, knowledge in one or more research areas within the Greater Southwest and Northern New Mexico.

Outcome 2 – Intellectual Skills: Students are expected demonstrate knowledge on concepts, rules and procedures needed for problem solving in anthropology. These skills include the ability to understand and critique development in anthropological theory and methodology and the ability to conceive of, design, and conduct research on anthropological subjects.

Outcome 3 – Attitudes: Students are expected to promote cross-cultural awareness, understanding, and appreciation of diverse lifestyles; and, students are expected to subscribe to and practice according to the ethical codes of anthropology.

III. Means of Assessing Student Outcomes

Outcome 1 – Declarative Knowledge

FIRST MEANS OF ASSESSMENT: The successful completion of the common core, requirements in the concentration, and elective courses with a Grade Point Average of at least 3.0. This will ensure that students have an academic and practical understanding and appreciation of the unique social and cultural heritage of the Greater Southwest, and its composite past and present. The anthropology concentration course requirements are:

1. Southwest Studies Common Core of 12-15 hours in History/Political Sciences, Spanish Language/Literature, and Anthropology.
 - Anth 513 Archaeology of the Southwest (3)
 - Anth/Soc 524 Social & Cultural Dynamics of the SW (3)
 - Hist 618 Seminar: The Southwest (3)
 - PolSci 611 Seminar: Southwest Politics
 - Span 652 Sem: Contemporary Writers of the Southwest

2. Requirements in Anthropology Concentration of 10 hours in Thesis Writing, Ethnographic Research Methods, and Thesis.
 - Anth 652 Thesis Writing (1)
 - Anth 696 Ethnographic Research Methods (3)
 - Anth 699 Thesis (6)

3. Electives in Anthropology Concentration of 10 hours selected in consultation with advisor.

SECOND MEANS OF ASSESSMENT: Students who complete all the program requirements listed above are prepared to acquire positions in both academic and professional careers or be admitted to a Ph.D. program.

- The successful completion of the core and elective courses with a GPA of 3.0 or above will ascertain that students have practical understanding and appreciation of the unique socio-cultural heritage of the Greater Southwest and its composite past.

Outcome 2 – Intellectual Skills

FIRST MEANS OF ASSESSMENT: Scholarly activity judged from an annual listing of students who publish in professional journals, books, edited collections and present papers at professional conferences.

- Six students presented papers in two conferences.

SECOND MEANS OF ASSESSMENT: Annual graduate evaluations of the academic performance and the degree completion progress of each student by the anthropology faculty.

- Annual graduate evaluations have not been performed during the past 2 years.

THIRD MEANS OF ASSESSMENT: Successful completion of a thesis proposal. The thesis proposal is a brief introduction to the original research, a clear and concise statement of purpose, preliminary review of relevant literature, and an outline of the research methodology.

- Six (6) students are actively working on their theses proposals. At least three of them are at the final stages of their proposals.

FOURTH MEANS OF ASSESSMENT: Successful completion of a thesis. The thesis is an original research in the form of design, implementation, data analysis, interpretation, and critique anthropological theory, culminating in writing and oral defense of a thesis.

- One student defended her thesis during AY 09-10 and completed the necessary corrections on her thesis.

Outcome 3 – Attitudes

FIRST MEANS OF ASSESSMENT: Questionnaires administered in classes will assess the extent to which cross-cultural awareness, understanding, appreciation of diverse lifestyles, and ethical codes of anthropology were increased.

- Questionnaires were not administered during the past 2 years.

SECOND MEANS OF ASSESSMENT: Questionnaire administered to alumni will assess the extent to which cross-cultural awareness, understanding, appreciation of diverse lifestyles, and ethical codes of anthropology were increased (See Appendix B: Evaluation Form for Alumni).

- There is no new data on anthropology graduates.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

All the assessment results have been reviewed by the faculty of anthropology. In the recent past outcome assessment results have been used to improve student learning mainly through changes to the curriculum (the addition of Lithics, Paleoethnobotany, and Anthropology Goes to the Movies) and appropriate updates to the content of existing courses. In an effort to make our students more marketable, as well as in an effort to attract new students, the Anthropology program submitted a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program in Cultural Resource Management proposal for the approval of Academic Affairs and the Board of Regents. The program was approved and several students have already enrolled in it.