ASSESSMENT REPORT
2017-2018

<u>**Anthropology**</u>   <u>**B.A.**</u>
(Instructional Degree Program)   (Degree Level)

Program Mission:
The mission of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice is to: a) contribute to meeting the educational and research needs in sociology, anthropology, and criminal justice b) contribute to meeting the career needs in social services and social sciences, as well as contribute to training for careers in education, engineering, physical and biological sciences, medicine, and other science fields; c) contribute to meeting the need for secondary school teacher certification in sociology and/or anthropology; and d) provide psychological and socio-cultural service and expertise for the region, as well as the greater global community.

Anthropology 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.

<u>Student Learning Outcome 1:</u>

Demonstrate critical thinking and an understanding of anthropology as applied to everyday life.

<u>NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 1</u>

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:
Grades from the final courses grade in Cultural Anthropology 102, Physical Anthropology and Archaeology 103, and Methods and Theory in Archaeology 410 will be used for this assessment. Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 80% of students in those classes receiving a grade of C or better. Assessments are based on the student's development of critical thinking and writing skills.

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	50	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	8
Total Number of Students Assessed:	**58**	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	**86%**

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1: Regarding Outcome 1 Means 1, we met our goal with 86% of our students receiving a C or better on final course grades in the assessed anthropology courses. We believe that we achieved this high percentage of success because we have been working to develop additional writing assignments while also providing more supervision for our students as they develop their critical thinking and writing skills.

Student Learning Outcome 2:

Be able to read, understand and critique anthropological literature.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 2
- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:
Grades from the final courses grade in Cultural Anthropology 102, Physical Anthropology and Archaeology 103, and Methods and Theory in Archaeology 410 will be used for this assessment. Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 80% of students in those classes receiving a grade of C or better Students with a C and better have demonstrated an ability to read, analyze and critique anthropological literature and to write about such literature in a clear and cohesive way. Students have also demonstrated their ability to locate, evaluate, organize and use research material from a broad range of sources. Students were able to format and document source material in properly constructed papers, presentations, and a variety of visual formats.

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	50	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	8
Total Number of Students Assessed:	**58**	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	**86%**

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2: Regarding Outcome 2 Means 1, we met our goal with 86% of our students receiving a C or better on final course grades in the

assessed anthropology courses. We believe that we achieved this high percentage of success because we have been working to develop additional writing assignments while also providing more supervision for our students as they develop their analytical skills and writing skills.

Student Learning Outcome 3:

Ability to design, analyze and interpret the results of research and to report the results in written form using APA or SAA format.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 3
- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Effective Communication Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills
- Effective Use of Technology

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:

Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by students receiving C or better on written assignments in the Anthropology core classes in Cultural Anthropology 102, Physical Anthropology and Archaeology 103, and Methods and Theory in Archaeology 410 will be used for this assessment. Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 80% of students in those classes receiving a grade of C or better. Assessments were based on the student's ability to develop effective written, and communication competencies. Students were able to apply principles and methods of science to solve problems and draw logical inferences. Students developed a level of quantitative literacy that enabled them to comprehend and evaluate information in a broad range of contexts. Students demonstrated a level of comprehension of methods and principles of scientific discovery and their application to all areas of learning in the social sciences.

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	50	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	8
Total Number of Students Assessed:	**58**	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	**86%**

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:

Regarding Outcome 3 Means 1, we met our goal with 86% of our students receiving a C or better on final course grades in the assessed anthropology courses. We believe that we achieved this high percentage of success because students were able to apply principles and methods of science to solve problems and draw logical inferences.

Utilization of Results:

In general, the program appears to be effective. One area that clearly needs work is improving the way in which we explain the advising process. We also plan for develop future exit surveys that will allow for longitudinal comparisons.

Changes to Program Based on Results:

We will make the program more attractive to our students, without compromising the integrity of the program. Examples include: changing course titles to make them more 'sexy' and attractive to students, including more field trips (pending on budget), adding discussion sessions to introductory courses, and developing inter-and intra- disciplinary courses that would be cross-listed with other disciplines.

Retention Strategies:

Increase contacts with undergraduate students through advising, peer mentoring, revival of the Anthropology club, and extracurricular activities such as field trips and local/regional volunteer opportunities in anthropology.

Additional Comments

We plan to develop an exit survey that will provide for comparison over time, and will allow for analyses that are more comprehensive in the future.

The Outcomes Assessment process has encouraged us to look more closely at our overall program. We want to offer a program that prepares students to succeed at the later stages and is tailored our students' academic and post-graduation individual needs. One area we had identified, as a potential area for change is the need to require undergraduate students to take an advance (400 level) methods and theory course that addresses the four-subfields of anthropology. We will offer such a course to students who plan to attend graduate school. Those who do not plan for graduate studies will substitute the advanced method and theory course with a 400 level course that aligns with their plans. A future exit survey will provide specific information about our students' plans for their future and their respective academic needs.