

2021-2022 Assessment Cycle

Assessment Findings

Program Assessment Accomplishments

Three full time Anthropology faculty members (Drs. Alexandra Klales, Ashley Maxwell, and Mary Sundal) utilized CTEL Assessment Grant #22AS04 to complete the B.S. in Anthropology (Forensics Concentration) revisions during AY2021-22.

1.) Disseminated program revisions to current students, alumni, stakeholders, department faculty, and WU faculty in the forensic programs (e.g., Forensic Biology, Forensic Investigations, etc.) and solicited feedback. We accomplished the following associated tasks with the explicit goal on increasing our stakeholder communication and engagement:

- a.) Developed and distributed tailored 1-page briefs to internal and external stakeholders (e.g., department faculty, majors, minors, forensics-related faculty, and stakeholders).
- b.) Posted program changes and rationale for changes on affiliated social media pages (posted 12.09.2022 to SOAN department and WU-FARU accounts) and in the department fall 2021 newsletter. The newsletter is archived on our department website and contains assessment summary and links to our update program and curricular changes.
- c.) Presented program changes and elicited student feedback at the SOAN Club meeting 10.19.2021.
- d.) Distributed program changes and new catalog revisions to existing majors and allowed majors to "move up" to the AY2021-22 catalog with program changes. Majors also received the 1-page brief and were able to discuss the implication of the program changes with their academic advisor and/or department chair.

2.) Reviewed the curriculum map and created or modified direct and indirect measures for each PSLO. Major changes include:

- a.) Revised PLSO1 to focus more fully on anthropology rather than forensic sciences in general. The new PSLO1 states "Contextualize the role of forensic anthropology in the four-field discipline of anthropology."
- b.) Realigned the curriculum map so that AN324 History and Theory of Anthropology no longer reinforces PSLO1. AN428 will now reinforce PSLO1 and AN324 will practice PSLO1.
- c.) Created and implemented an indirect measure (AN428 course survey) to assess PSLO2 and PSLO3.
- d.) Created and implemented an indirect measure (senior exit survey) to assess all three PSLOs.

3.) Collaborated with the B.A. in Anthropology program committee. We held two meetings to discuss program assessment strategies.

- a.) January 2022 meeting: discussed how to gather, store, and report assessment data, the threshold measurements for direct measures (student artifacts) and indirect measures (senior exit survey), and the rubric assessment values.
 - i.) Data will be stored for "R" courses on the shared drive for each semester. Instructor will include a 1-paragraph summary with data tables, changes implemented and reflection on what went well and/or what can be improved in future semesters.
 - ii.) Rubric assessment values revised to advanced (90-100%), target (70-89%), developing (60-69%), beginning ≤59%, not assessed (not submitted or less than 59% certain percentage submitted)
- b.) May 2022 meeting: reviewed results of direct and indirect assessment measures and discussed ways to modify or clarify assessment activities and created a rotation schedule for the program assessment liaisons.

4.) Created analysis and reporting calendar for PSLOs and determined the timeline to review entire assessment plan.

Finding per Measure

New PSLOs (revised AY21-22)

PSLO 1

Outcome: PSLO 1

Contextualize the history and role of forensic anthropology in the four-field discipline of anthropology.

▼ Measure: Assignment *Program level Direct - Student Artifact*

Details/Description: PSLO1 was revised in spring 2022 through the work of the B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration) program committee (and CTEL Assessment Grant). We realigned PSLO1 on the curriculum map from AN324 History and Theory of Anthropology to AN428 Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology. This work occurred after AN428 was taught in the fall 2021 semester. Currently, AN428 runs in the fall semester every two years.

Acceptable Target: 70% of majors will score a grade of 70% (C) or above on the associated assignment.

Findings for Assignment

Summary of Findings: The BS in Anthropology assessment committee realigned PSLO1 from AN324 History and Theory of Anthropology to the capstone course, AN428 Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology. The realignment occurred in spring 2022 after AN428 was taught, thus, we did not collect direct measures (student artifact) for AN428 PSLO1 this academic year.

Recommendations: The student artifact measure is not yet finalized. The instructor of record for AN428 will create an assignment to assess PSLO1

and then send the assignment to the B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration) program committee to review and modify, if needed, prior to fall 2023. In addition, the indirect measure (AN428 course survey) will be updated to include questions related to PSLO1.

Reflections/Notes:

NOTE: Because we did not collect direct measures for PSLO1, we cannot assess the target achievement. However, we anticipate that we will meet or exceed the target achievement moving forward.

▼ **Measure:** Senior Exit Survey
Program level Indirect - Survey


Details/Description:

The department requests that graduating majors complete an exit survey. The first question of the survey asks majors to reflect on the required anthropology courses completed at Washburn to determine if the courses met the associated PSLOs (on a 5-point scale from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree"). The survey also provides a space for majors to leave a qualitative response on how the coursework met or did not meet the PSLOs.

Acceptable Target:

70% of majors will respond "Strongly Agree" or Agree" on Senior Exit Survey question #1 for PSLO1.

Supporting Attachments:

 B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration) Senior Exit Survey (Adobe Acrobat Document)

Findings for Senior Exit Survey

Summary of Findings:

We collected and analyzed one indirect measure (senior exit survey) for PSLO1. Four graduating B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration) seniors completed the survey and answered the following question: "Reflect on the required anthropology courses at Washburn (that were listed on the form). The required anthropology courses that you took at Washburn enabled you to: PSLO1 Contextualize the role of forensic anthropology in the four-field discipline of anthropology." 75% (n=3) = Strongly Agree; 25% (n=1) = Agree

Results :

Acceptable Target Achievement: Exceeded


Recommendations:

Because we had not created the senior exit survey until the spring 2022 semester, we did not collect data for the fall 2021 graduates. Moving forward, we will administer the indirect measure (senior exit survey) twice an academic year.

Reflections/Notes:

While none of the qualitative responses explicitly discussed PSLO1, we are quite please with the overwhelming positive feedback the program, curriculum, and quality of instruction students discussed.

Substantiating Evidence:

 Senior Exit Survey B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration) SP22.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

PSLO 2

Outcome: PSLO 2


Apply anthropological ethics, methods, and/or theory to the recovery and analysis of human remains.

▼ **Measure:** AN428 Assignment: Case Training Hours Log
Program level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description: Students enrolled in AN428 complete 25 hours working on an active forensic case. The case hours reinforce and evaluate PSLO2.

Acceptable Target: 70% of majors will score a grade of 70% (C) or above on the associated assignment.

Supporting Attachments:

 PSLO2 AN428 Assignment Case Training Hours F21.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

Findings for AN428 Assignment: Case Training Hours Log

Summary of Findings: We will report data for PSLO2 in the next assessment cycle as planned.

Recommendations: Rather than use two distinct student artifacts for PSLO2 and PSLO3, we will revise the direct measure and associated rubric for the Forensic Anthropology Case Study assignment prior to fall 2023 (the next time AN428 will run). The revised student artifact will assess both PSLO2 and PSLO3 moving forward.

Reflections/Notes:

▼ **Measure:** AN428 Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology Survey
Program level Indirect - Survey


Details/Description:

Majors enrolled in AN428 Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology complete an anonymous course survey at the end of the semester. The survey includes questions to assess the PSLOs: "Based on the casework hours (in class & outside of class time) and your associated casework hours log in AN428, do you think you achieve program SLO #?". Response options included Yes, No, or Somewhat). The survey also provides space for students to leave qualitative responses on why or why not the associated assignments met or did not meet the PSLOs.

Acceptable Target:

50% of majors will respond "Yes" to the class survey question related to PSLO2.

Supporting Attachments:

 AN428 Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology Survey.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

Findings for AN428 Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology Survey

Summary of Findings: We will report data for PSLO2 in the next assessment cycle as planned.

Recommendations:

Reflections/Notes:

▼ **Measure:** Senior Exit Survey
Program level Indirect - Survey

Details/Description:


The department requests that graduating majors complete an exit survey. The first question of the survey asks majors to reflect on the required anthropology courses completed at Washburn to determine if the courses met the associated PSLOs

(on a 5-point scale from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree". The survey also provides a space for majors to leave a qualitative response on how the coursework met or did not meet the PSLOs.

Acceptable Target:

70% of majors will respond "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" on Senior Exit Survey question #1 for PSLO2.

Supporting Attachments:

 B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration) Senior Exit Survey (Adobe Acrobat Document)

Findings for Senior Exit Survey

Summary of Findings:

We will report data for PSLO2 in the next assessment cycle as planned.

Recommendations:

Reflections/Notes:

PSLO 3

Outcome: PSLO 3

Effectively interpret and communicate anthropological data.

▼ **Measure:** AN428 Assignment: Forensic Anthropology Case Report
Program level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description:


As the capstone course in the B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration) program, AN428 Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology asks students to

apply the methods, theory, and information students learned throughout the program. One of the assignments in this course challenges students to complete a Forensic Anthropology Case Study report to demonstrate their mastery of the PSLOs.

Acceptable Target:

70% of majors will score a grade of 70% (C) or above on the rubric's associated levels (criteria C, E, and G) for PSLO3.

Supporting Attachments:

 PSLO3 AN428 Assignment Forensic Anthropology Case Report F21.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

Findings for AN428 Assignment: Forensic Anthropology Case Report

Summary of Findings:

We will report data for PSLO3 in two assessment cycles as planned.

Recommendations:

The direct measure and associated rubric will be revised prior to fall 2023 (the next time AN428 will run) so that the assignment will assess both PSLO2 and PSLO3.

Reflections/Notes:

▼ **Measure:** AN428 Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology Survey
Program level Indirect - Survey

Details/Description:


Majors enrolled in AN428 Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology complete an anonymous course survey at the end of the semester. The survey includes questions to assess the PSLOs: "Based on the casework hours (in class & outside of class time) and your associated casework hours log in AN428, do you think you achieve program SLO #?". Response options included Yes, No, or Somewhat).

The survey also provides space for students to leave qualitative responses on why or why not the associated assignments met or did not meet the PSLOs.

Acceptable Target:

50% of majors will respond "Yes" to the class survey question related to PSLO3.

Supporting Attachments:

 AN428 Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology Survey.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

Findings for AN428 Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology Survey

Summary of Findings:

We will report data for PSLO3 in two assessment cycles as planned.

Recommendations:

Reflections/Notes:

▼ **Measure:** Senior Exit Survey *Program level Indirect - Survey*


Details/Description:

The department requests that graduating majors complete an exit survey. The first question of the survey asks majors to reflect on the required anthropology courses completed at Washburn to determine if the courses met the associated PSLOs (on a 5-point scale from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree". The survey also provides a space for majors to leave a qualitative response on how the coursework met or did not meet the PSLOs.

Acceptable Target:

70% of majors will respond "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" on Senior Exit Survey question #1 for PSLO3.

Supporting Attachments:

 B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration) Senior Exit Survey (Adobe Acrobat Document)

Findings for Senior Exit Survey

Summary of Findings: We will report data for PSLO3 in two assessment cycles as planned.

Recommendations:

Reflections/Notes:

Overall Recommendations

As discussed in the Assessment Findings section, the B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration) program committee has worked diligently the past two academic years to fully revised and update the Forensic Anthropology program and curriculum. While we began collecting assessment data based on the revisions this past academic year (AY2021-22), we have one outstanding update to finalize: PSLO1 will be reinforced (assessed and reported) in AN428 Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology, the capstone course for the program.

Our goals for AY2022-23 are as follows:

- 1.) Finalize the PSLO1 direct (student artifact) and indirect (class survey) measures in AN428
- 2.) Distribute Senior Exit Survey in fall 2022 and spring 2023

Overall Reflection

The B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration) program committee is overwhelmingly pleased with our program and curricular changes and look forward to implementing, collecting, and analyzing the data.

Faculty Collaboration

We have a new B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration) assessment liaison, Dr. Mary Sundal, beginning this summer through AY2023-24 after all 3 PSLOs have been analyzed and reported. The assessment liaison will continue to work with the B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration) program committee to tackle the few recommendations for AY2022-23. The committee will also communicate our progress and updates to all faculty in the Sociology and Anthropology department and WU-forensic faculty as well. A portion of our department annual retreat in August will be devoted to program assessment overview and the program committees will also meet at the end of the academic year to discuss assessment findings in preparation for the AY2022-23 assessment report.

Communication & Collaboration with Students

The department and faculty advisors keep students informed and up-to-date on program and assessment practices throughout students' academic careers here at Washburn. Beginning at the first introduction to the program during NSO, TSO, or campus visits, faculty advisors discuss the B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration) mission statement, PSLOs, curriculum map (and related major map) as well as how the program will share assessment results with students (e.g., department website, newsletter, and student club meetings). Faculty reinforce this information during routine advising appointment with majors as well. Faculty also incorporate the PSLOs into all required courses from the Introduced level to the Reinforced level so that students are aware how their courses, and course-based assignments, are aligned in the program. Finally, the program values student feedback to improve our assessment practices, thus, we anonymously survey students in the capstone course and prior to graduation (senior exit survey) so that we can review and potentially implement students' suggestions in future semesters.

Communication & Collaboration with External Stakeholders

The B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration) assessment plan and findings are shared with external stakeholders in a few ways. First, we post major updates on our related social media pages (department and WU-FARU, which serves our largest external stakeholders) and in our twice-annual department newsletter. Second, we post the plan and findings on our department website. Finally, we communicate directly with our external stakeholders via email to solicit feedback.

Communication & Collaboration with University

The outgoing assessment liaison, Dr. Alexandra Klales, applied for and was awarded the CTET Assessment Grant to complete the B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration) program assessment in AY2021-22. Dr. Klales, along with Drs. Maxwell and Sundal, researched and implemented best assessment practices. All three full time faculty members have attending numerous CTET and professional development workshops. Dr. Sundal is the assessment liaison for the B.A. in Sociology program as well and has received an additional CTET Assessment Grant for that program. Finally, Dr. Sundal is a member of the B.A. in Anthropology program

committee and regularly communicates assessment practices among all three department programs.

The program committee members have numerous CAS and university service positions, including Faculty Senate, College Faculty Council, and CAS Department Chairs meetings, among others, where they are able to discuss assessment and engage in meaningful conversations about best assessment practices.

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