

**Minnesota State University Moorhead**  
**2007-2008 Assessment Report Cover Sheet**

(An electronic version of this form can be accessed at <http://www.mnstate.edu/assess>)

*Note: All non-accredited programs are required to complete this form. Include Assessment Reporting Forms for each learning outcome assessed.*

**Academic Program: Anthropology**

**Department: Anthropology and Earth Science**

**College: Social and Natural Sciences**

**Date: 10/30/07**

**1. Name(s) of Department Assessment Coordinator and/or Assessment Committee Members**

**Michael Michlovic; Rinita Dalan, Erik Gooding, George Holley, Bruce Roberts**

**2. List of All Student Learning Outcomes.** (List all outcomes, placing an asterisk (\*) by the outcomes you are assessing this year.)

Understand the content of the discipline\*, Apply the concepts of anthropology\*, Understand research methods\*, Ability to use resources effectively

**3. Describe how your program has addressed the comments from the Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee during the past two academic years? (If you have made changes to your plan, file a revised Assessment Plan Cover Sheet and Assessment Planning Form(s).)**

We have made modifications to our student learning outcomes, simplifying the number of outcomes in a way that does not overlap heavily with assessment of the Dragon Core outcomes. We have tried to clarify the level of performance expected of students both on the seminar survey form and in annual discussions of assessment by faculty. The assessment committee also suggested that we focus our assessment more on "useful results." This led us to try to incorporate our many lab and field courses into a learning outcome. However, these courses are practical applications and it is difficult to give all students a test regarding this, since not all students take the same courses. Some are in ethnography, others in archaeology; some archaeology students focus on geophysical techniques, others in standard excavation and artifact analysis. For the present, we will deal with these disparate forms of practical training in our annual assessment discussions as a group.

**4. If you have received an Instructional Improvement Grant in the past two years, identify the outcomes on which the grant was based and provide a summary here of the results from your grant.**

N/A

**5. Signatures**

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Department Chair or Program Director

Dean or Director

**Required Attachments:**

1. Assessment Reporting Forms
2. Records of department meetings when Assessment Report was discussed and approved.

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2007-2008 Assessment Reporting Form**

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*Instructions: Include this form for each student learning outcome assessed during the previous year. Include Assessment Report Cover Sheet.*

**Academic Program:** Anthropology

**1. Learning outcome assessed (please include the number of the outcome to correspond with the list on the cover sheet).**

**1. Understand the content of anthropology**

**2. Describe assessment measure used for this learning outcome (attach instrument or rubric)**

Survey used in seminar

**3. Expected/satisfactory student results (from assessment plan)**

score of 5 satisfactory, 6+preferred, 4- unacceptable

**4. Actual results from the past year (attach additional information, if necessary)**

Scores: 8,5,6,8,4,7,7,7,6,7,8,4,8,6. Mean = 6.5, std = 1.3

**5. Describe and explain available trend data for student performance on this outcome over the past several years. In other words, describe how the results of this measure have changed over the past several years.**

The results have declined this year although there has been no directional trend. Some of the early higher scores (eg 2003-2005) were probably the result of the person who taught the seminar and made the evaluations.

**6. Proposed action in response to results.** (Please note if improvements can be made with existing department resources. If improvements cannot be made with existing department resources, consider applying for an Instructional Improvement Grant.)

**Members of the program must discuss what is expected for the various scores assigned to students in the seminar survey.**

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**Academic Program:** Anthropology

**1. Learning outcome assessed (please include the number of the outcome to correspond with the list on the cover sheet).**

**2. Apply concepts in anthropology**

**2. Describe assessment measure used for this learning outcome (attach instrument or rubric)**

survey used in seminar

**3. Expected/satisfactory student results (from assessment plan)**

score of 5 satisfactory, 6+preferred, -4 unacceptable

**4. Actual results from the past year (attach additional information, if necessary)**

Scores: 8,6,5,8,7,7,7,6,6,7,4,8,5 Mean = 6.3; std =1.2

**5. Describe and explain available trend data for student performance on this outcome over the past several years. In other words, describe how the results of this measure have changed over the past several years.**

The results of the survey have declined this year although there has been no directional trend since 2002. Some of the higher earlier scores (eg 2003-2005) were probably the result of the person who taught the seminar and made the evaluations.

**6. Proposed action in response to results.** (Please note if improvements can be made with existing department resources. If improvements cannot be made with existing department resources, consider applying for an Instructional Improvement Grant.)

**Members of the program must discuss what is expected for the various scores assigned to students in the seminar survey.**

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*Instructions: Include this form for each student learning outcome assessed during the previous year. Include Assessment Report Cover Sheet.*

**Academic Program:** Anthropology

**1. Learning outcome assessed (please include the number of the outcome to correspond with the list on the cover sheet).**

**3. Understand research methods**

**2. Describe assessment measure used for this learning outcome (attach instrument or rubric)**

Survey used in seminar

**3. Expected/satisfactory student results (from assessment plan)**

score of 5 satisfactory, 6+preferred, 4- unacceptable

**4. Actual results from the past year (attach additional information, if necessary)**

Scores: 8,6,5,8,5,7,7,7,6,6,7,4,8,5 Mean = 6.3; std = 1.2

**5. Describe and explain available trend data for student performance on this outcome over the past several years. In other words, describe how the results of this measure have changed over the past several years.**

The results have declined this year although there has been no directional trend. Some of the early higher scores (eg 2003-2005) were probably the result of the person who taught the seminar and made the evaluations.

On the other hand faculty have discussed the performance of students involved in lab and field courses and have been very pleased with the results. This positive evaluation is not altogether subjective.

In the past 2 years 18 students in anthropology have used their research skills and worked in conjunction with faculty to make oral or poster presentations at the student academic conference at MSUM. Furthermore, during the same period 24 students attended the Plains Anthropological Conference, and five students presented papers. Two of these were in the student paper competition. In 2006, an anthropology student from MSUM won the Plains Anthropological Conference Student Paper award. In 2006, MSUM students

**represented the largest contingent of undergraduate students from any institution participating in the conference.**

**6. Proposed action in response to results.** (Please note if improvements can be made with existing department resources. If improvements cannot be made with existing department resources, consider applying for an Instructional Improvement Grant.)

**Members of the program must discuss what is expected for the various scores assigned to students in the seminar survey. On the other hand, it is gratifying to see students perform well in para-professional and professional venues such as the Student Academic Conference and at professional conferences as well.**



**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**  
**April 30, 2007**

**To:**  
Anthropology faculty

**From:**  
Michael Michlovic, Chair  
Anthropology and Earth Science  
[michlovc@mnstate.edu](mailto:michlovc@mnstate.edu)  
-2035

**Re:** Anthropology assessment meeting

1. Given student participation in the Academic Conference and professional meetings, perhaps public presentation and speaking is no longer a major concern. Students are performing pretty well on this in many class assignments.
2. Use field courses in anthro and archaeology as a method of assessment. Field schools give great feedback which we can't get in class. It involves the direct application of knowledge.
3. In cultural anthropology something must be changed in the traditional cultures class. We need to tell students what they need to know and what they must be able to do before they graduate. This should be a class on the sophomore level.
4. Students need to begin reading and evaluating texts. Summarizing and evaluating readings are assignments that may yield results.
5. Annual reporting to chair of how many students are involved in the Academic Conference and other professional or semi-professional activities.

Anthro & Earth Sci – Faculty Meeting 10/22/07

Members present:

Colson, Dalan, Holley, Leonard, Michlovic, Roberts, Sando

1. Previous meeting minutes approved
2. Acknowledgement that all PDP's should have been taken care of by those needing to fulfill these obligations
3. Announcement that those wanting to qualify as graduate faculty should do so at this time.
4. Announcement that the bulletin board is used to announce all deadlines for the department and individual faculty.
5. Information discussed on accelerated courses.
6. Announced that George Holley is going for tenure and promotion and must have material in to the department by Nov. 15.
7. Announced that Jessica Mavis, Math Department, would be able to help students in math-related problems.
8. Discussed assessment. Anthro and Earth Science are required to establish separate assessment designs. Tim Borchers has noted that Anthro had too many outcomes (n=9) and the members agreed that those outcomes duplicating Dragon Core initiatives (such as multicultural learning, etc) should be jettisoned. The following four criteria were discussed.

- 1) Working with anthropological concepts.
- 2) Work with content and concepts in a scholarly manner.
- 3) Applying concepts and methods in the field and lab.
- 4) Use anthropological resources effectively.

The suggested instruments for measuring assessment will include the traditional seminar as well as field and lab classes.

The Earth Science (Geoscience) team will meet separately to address their assessment issues.

9. Rinita presented information on charities.
10. Mike mentioned that exhibit cases are open for renewal.