

**University of Rochester**  
**Department of Anthropology**

**Learning Objectives and Assessment Plan for the Major**  
**April, 2011**

The anthropology major is designed to train students in the theory and methods of the discipline. The courses provide a strong foundation in empirical research and analytic methods, with a focus on cross-cultural comparison.

The learning objectives for the major include:

1. Knowledge: Demonstrate a solid grasp of the history, theories, and methods of cultural anthropology.
2. Research methods: Demonstrate conceptual understanding of and application of anthropological research methods, including participant observation, qualitative interviews, and the ethnographic analysis of material objects and historical texts.
3. Inquiry: Be able to interpret, analyze, and evaluate anthropological texts, including being able to analyze and evaluate the ethnographic content of historical and contemporary representations of cultural difference.
4. Communication- written: Be able to write clear, concise, and well organized ethnographic analyses based on original empirical research and analytical essays on anthropological theories and topics.
5. Communication- oral: Present findings of research and analysis in clear, organized manner.

The program assessment plan for the program is:

Honors program: Seniors will design and complete an original research project that requires a written report and formal presentation to the faculty. The project will incorporate each of the program's five learning objectives. Student reports and presentations will be reviewed and assessed by the student's faculty adviser and the student presentation reviewed by a team of program faculty. Faculty will complete a program learning objective scoring form (see attached form) for each student.

Senior seminar: As part of the seminar, seniors prepare a mini- research paper and complete a formal presentation at a department conference. The senior research papers and presentation will incorporate each of the program's five learning objectives. The senior papers and presentations will be reviewed and assessed by the faculty in charge of the course. Faculty will complete a program learning objective scoring form (see attached form) for each student.

