

PROGRAM REVIEW Fall 2020

Program: Anthropology

Division: Business, Social Science, and Learning Resources (BSSL)

Date: 10/31/2020

Writer(s): Daniel Cearley

SLO/SAO Point-Person: Daniel Cearley

Audience: Deans, Vice Presidents of Student Services and Academic Services, All Planning and Allocation Committees. This document will be available to the public.

Uses: This Program Review will be used to inform the campus and community about your program. It will also be used in the processes of creating Division Summaries, determining College Planning Priorities and allocating resources. A final use is to document fulfillment of accreditation requirements.

Please note: Program Review is NOT in itself a vehicle for making requests. All requests should be made through appropriate processes (e.g. Instructional Equipment Request Process) or directed to your dean or supervisor.

Time Frame: This Program Review should reflect on program status during the 2020-21 academic year. It should describe plans starting now and continuing through 2021-22.

Sections: This Program Review has been shortened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Program Review Committee understands that you are completing this program review in a time of stress and disruption and that this may affect many of your responses. Sections and questions are marked with the name of the committee or office that will use the information.

- The first section focuses on general program reflection and planning.
- The second section has specific questions to be filled out by all programs this year.
- The third section is a review of curriculum, to be filled out only by programs with curriculum.

Topics: The Program Review Glossary defines key terms. Writers should review this glossary before writing: <https://bit.ly/2LqPxOW>

For Help: Contact Nadiyah Taylor: ntaylor@laspositascollege.edu.

A list of contacts for help with specific sections is provided on the Program Review website under the “tools for writers” tab. <https://bit.ly/3fY7Ead>

Instructions:

- 1) Please respond to each question as completely as possible.
- 2) If the requested information does not apply to your program, write “Not Applicable.”
- 3) Optional: Communicate with your dean about completing this document.
- 4) Send an electronic copy of this form to Nadiyah Taylor and your dean by Monday, November 2.

Links:

Program Review Home Page: laspositascollege.edu/instructionalprogramreview

Fall 2019 Program Reviews: laspositascollege.edu/programreview/pr2019.php

Frequently Asked Questions: laspositascollege.edu/instructionalprogramreview/programreviewfaqs.php

(UAVs), and associated materials that were part of a joint effort with the Administration of Justice and Winery and Viticulture Technology programs. Student in ANTR 2L inspected, created a numbered tracking system, and entered each item into our teaching material catalog. Although the flight testing of each was interrupted by the pandemic, each of the UAVs were subsequently tested by instructor, Daniel Cearley. This Fall semester efforts were made to create a new course proposal the Fall 2021 semester that would create a UAV specific course designed to help students prepare for the FAA UAV Remote Pilots Exam, however this effort may be affected by the restructuring of campus priorities in association with COVID-19.

In other ongoing efforts, the anthropology department has worked with Ann Kroll in the Facilities Bond Program and the Facilities and Sustainability Committee to secure a designated space and display cabinets for the Colombian Mammoth remains. Anthropology is now working among numerous disciplines to develop an appropriate content and secure funding to build out the display to reflect the unique local history of our campus.

Our programs other efforts included the hiring of a new adjunct faculty member, Shelia Thomas, whose experience is much appreciated. Her presence brings our department nearer to gender parity and more appropriately reflects the diversity of our students.

In ongoing efforts, the department augmented our web presence with information about student projects, discipline related materials, and most importantly crafted a clearly guided pathway for our AA-T. In response to student's questions about our course offerings, anthropology has developed a course rotation that plainly outlines when certain courses will be offered. This work has resulted in changes to our schedule with ANTR 12 now being offered each semester and for the first time two new courses will be introduced into a two year rotation, ANTR 7 – Native Cultures of North America and ANTR 8 – World Prehistory in Archaeology. The SLOs for these courses reflect attention to historical equities as a way to situate students in contemporary concerns.

Mark an X before each area that is addressed in your response.			Definitions of terms: https://bit.ly/2LqPxOW				
	Community Partnerships/Outreach	x	Facilities, Supplies and Equipment, Software		LPC Planning Priorities	x	Services to Students
x	Course Offerings		Financial/Budgetary	x	LPC Collaborations	x	SLO/SAO Process
x	Curriculum Committee Items		Human Resources		Pedagogy	x	Student Equity
x	External Factors	x	Learning Support		Professional Development		Technology Use

B. Challenges, Obstacles and Needs: Describe any significant challenges, obstacles or needs for your program. Your response may include issues regarding COVID-19. Please highlight any negative impacts for students.

The anthropology program recognized that our ANTR 1L laboratory offerings were not sufficient to meet the demand given that students were overenrolling in many afternoon sections. In response, we nearly doubled the offerings from four to seven sections for the Fall 2020. Each of these classes were adequately enrolled, however when we return to face-to-face teaching it will raise concerns about sufficient laboratory space, since our ANTR 1 lecture sections occupy the same room. It has been suggested that we offer large 100+ enrollments to maximize space and, in addition, offer more offerings in a distance education format. By shifting the lectures out of the Anthropology Laboratory room this may also free up time slots for the lab to act as a student study area and a place for independent studies/honor students to work on their projects. Each semester Prof. Hasten and Prof. Cearley are involved in multiple independent studies projects which require space to complete. At times these

projects have spilled out into the hallways of Building 1000 and in the evenings students have used the part-time faculty meeting room.

In related fashion, the increase in laboratory based courses has made the necessity for the hiring of a laboratory technician ever more apparent as faculty are spending an increasing amount of time to set-up, break down, and store laboratory materials. As mentioned in our 2019 Program Review, anthropology will more avidly assess the need to petition for a laboratory technician as a classified staff position or as a part-time student role.

Unfortunately, as a result of the COVID crisis our request for fifteen laptops to be used with our laboratory and lecture courses was mishandled. It seems that the request was made to RAC, a quote was produced by Technology Department, and all RAC requests for BSSL were approved however at some ill-defined point in the process these laptops and rolling case were not ordered. This is disheartening however, given the situation the anthropology will redouble its efforts to re-submit a request for the laptops in the coming year.

As discussed in our previous program review, the design of the Anthropology Laboratory space mimicked other lecture rooms in Building 1000 which is not conducive to a laboratory and in-class exercise driven environment. Since opening in 2018, it has become clear that carpeting was a poor choice for a wet lab scenario. The sinks, each have low kitchen style fixtures instead of common high neck spouts which make it difficult to fill high rimmed buckets. Despite requesting adequate ventilation hoods and fans for the classroom in previous Program Review document, these items were not included in the construction of the building.

In addition, the anthropology lab was only partially built out with cabinets needing to be installed above the sinks and counter area. A challenge which is currently being addressed is the lack of storage for our excavation equipment (sifting screens, shovels, and picks). As this equipment becomes more utilized under field conditions, soil will be undoubtedly begin to enter the classroom in 1061. The previous mentioned carpeting in the room is being adversely affected. By moving the field equipment to another location, this would free up much needed space. Currently, we have a photography equipment which does not fit on the existing counter, which is at a height which is difficult for many students to adequately access. A moveable and low positioned cart needs to be ordered to address this problem. As mentioned in previous program reviews, our courses require an outdoor area for field exercise. This issue has been discussed with the facilities and sustainability committee, however a more clearly defined proposal needs to be outlined by anthropology and resubmitted.

An ongoing question for both archaeology and our course in forensic anthropology is a need for a policy that would allow the acquiring and utilizing human remains. Currently, students are utilizing plastic castes which understandably do not adequately prepare students to real world situations. These castes do not have the ability to discern certain anatomical features that are fundamental to training in the forensic sciences. A policy would be similar to how human cadavers are utilized in the biology department for anatomy courses.

Lastly, there remains gaps in our teaching material with a need for an additional five sets of articulated skeletons with carrying boxes, additional storage boxes for existing elements, and expanded teaching materials for primates and early hominins. Currently our students are in overly large groups when conducting osteology based exercises. Lastly, with increasing focus on race and ancestry, it would be beneficial if we are better able to create exercises which directly address these topics. There is software (FORDISC) which is currently the industry standard among forensic anthropologists which can be purchased at a relatively low cost.