

PROGRAM REVIEW 2008-2011

Division: Social Sciences and Humanities Division

Department or Program: Anthropology

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I. Description and Mission of the Program

Which area(s) does this program considerably address (check all that apply):

Basic Skills Transfer

- A. The Anthropology department at De Anza College offers courses in all the four subfields in Anthropology – Biological, Cultural, Archaeology and Linguistics. The courses satisfy General Education requirement of the students and are transferable to both UC and CSU. In addition to the above four courses we also offer a lab course in Biological anthropology (Anth 1L), a World Prehistory course (Anth 4) and a cross listed course with the Child Development and Education Program titled Early Childhood Education (Anth 66). The goal of our department is not only to provide GE credits but also to equip our students with both basic and anthropological skills. Anthropology is a unique humanistic science and of great value to students' understanding of the globally interconnected world in which we live. It is one of the most relevant and meaningful discipline today.
- B. The main strengths of the Anthropology department at De Anza are our popular course offerings and our faculty. We have faculty that is trained in the four subfields and committed to using a strategy that is student centered, active, and engaging. Our courses satisfy GE requirements and are transferable. They are very relevant and meaningful to our students in this globalized world and equips them with skills that will make them successful. A cross cultural, holistic and a bio cultural approach is used to understand human diversity both cultural and biological. Students get a comprehensive understanding of humans both spatially and temporally.
- C. We would like to broaden our curriculum more to offer courses in the applied field such as forensics and medical anthropology; lab course in archaeology and courses in primate evolution and behavior. We expect our new classroom/lab/exhibit space in the future Mediated Learning Center to permit us these new offerings. We would also like to improve our enrollment success and retention.
- D. We equip our students with anthropological skills, which include a holistic, cross-cultural, multidisciplinary and a transnational perspective in studying humans. The students earn transferable units and in the future we are working towards making our

curriculum robust so that we can offer a major in anthropology and certificates in forensics, applied anthropology and archeological techniques.

II. **Retention and Growth**

- A. Course enrollment in Anthropology has increased significantly over the last three years. The enrollment increased by 9% in 2006-2007 and by 5% in 2007-2008 compared to 2005-2006. Total enrollment in our courses is around 3162 per fiscal year. With respect to retention, the percentage went up by 3% in 2006-2007 from 85% in 2004-2005.
- B. The enrollment of students in the non targeted group increased by 3.5 % over three years, whereas the enrollment increased by a solid 9% of the non targeted group. Latino students contributed most in the non targeted group (their numbers increased from 301 to 385 over three years). The retention of the non targeted group averaged around 88% over three years whereas in the targeted group average retention was 80%. Ongoing efforts on behalf of the faculty to make the courses relevant, using a pedagogy that is multicultural and addresses multiple learning styles, increase offerings that satisfy the needs of our student population will continue to increase retention and enrollment
- C. In spite of EWRT recommendation the students come to us under prepared. The anthropology courses require substantial reading and writing. In order to deal with this gap in preparedness and requirement for the course, interventions such as the early alert program, basic skills workshops and the services provided at the WRC are used. Students with basic skill needs significantly impact the success and retention of our department. Attempts are made by the faculty to develop their skills while in the department by emphasizing more team/collaborative projects, tutoring, study groups, drawing on more non linguistic skills, etc. but more needs to be done to strengthen their skills before they come into the department.

III. **Student Equity**

- A. Regarding success we have been able to narrow the performance gap to 5% with respect to Latino/a students. So the results indicate that the Latino/a students are enrolling in our classes with increasing numbers and their performance is comparable to the non targeted group. With respect to the Filipino/a students we have been able to successfully narrow the gap from 13 % to 7% in the last three years. However with African American students the equity gap is at about 14-19%.
- B. The anthropology faculty has been participating in the Division's CAR project for the past three years. It involves getting together twice every quarter for one and a half hour each time discussing, applying and reflecting on equity issues. We as a department continue to benefit immensely from our discussions of *Pygmalion in the Classroom*; *The Practices of the Best College Teachers* by Ken Bains, *Other People's Children* by Lisa Delpit, *Thin Ice*, *Critical Race Counterstories along the*

Chicana/Chicano ESducational Pipeline by Tara J. Yosso; and most recently *Multiple Intelligences* by Howard Gardner.

In addition to the CAR project we will continue the use the Social Science and Humanities support tutorial, early alert intervention, counseling, and adjunct skills workshops to achieve equity. Above all, we will strive to teach classes using a pedagogy which is student centered, active, collaborative, and engaging.

- C. We have made good progress in two of the three targeted groups, but there is still scope for much more. We need more faculty retraining and discussion on how to teach more engaging and relevant courses; and more resources for tracking and satisfying the educational needs of our students at risk,

IV. **Budget Limitations**

- A. We really need funds to buy more current media, interactive programs and resources for our labs. In the Lab in Biological anthropology we need more skeletons, bones, casts, and materials to conduct primate and human variation studies. These materials can also be used in our courses to make the abstract more tangible.
In addition to the above we desperately need a full time archaeologist on our team of anthropologist who will develop a field school, teach archaeology courses and labs
These programs and classes are greatly desired by our students and will greatly boost the enrollment, success and retention of our department.
- B. Anthropology is the most valuable and meaningful discipline today. It is a complete comprehensive study of human kind. In today's global world what would be more beneficial than to equip our students with the skills they need to understand and deal with both biological and cultural diversity that they encounter everyday day all the time. This department is the most indispensable general education training. In addition all our courses are transferable and satisfy their major requirement. Soon we will be offering certificates in Forensics and applied anthropology which will satisfy their career goals.

V. **Additional Comments (optional):**

We are a strong department in our offerings, enrollment and faculty. We serve more than 3000 students annually. Our faculty is experienced and committed to student success and retention. Our department was one of the first to have a website some eight years ago. It is frequently visited and queries sent. Most of us even have a class specific website too. Our department has made tremendous efforts towards outreach and inreach. Our brochures, representation at parent nights, community centers, display windows are indicative of our commitment to increase the visibility of our department. For the past three years we have been involved in acquiring and designing an Anthropology lab and Exhibit Hall which will serve as an outreach and inreach platform and also for interdisciplinary work.

We collaborate with the Foothill anthropology department and are striving to develop a strong anthropology department in the district. We are also working towards developing a certificate in Forensics and Applied anthropology.