

MA IN APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY PROPOSAL REVIEW

CURRICULUM

The MA in Anthropology proposes a 5 year BA/MA option for students with application occurring in the junior year. In total, 36 cr hr programming with flexible topics and 21 elective hrs is attained but focus in a particular subspecialty is expected. Rotating special topic courses will be offered. The student will be matched with an advisor upon admission and will work to develop a program of study that culminates in a 6 cr scholarship demonstration of publication, thesis, or internship. The internship will provide “a substantial piece of work that demonstrates research skills ... “and appears to be rigorous and appropriate in comparison to the other thesis and publishable options. Overall, the curriculum design appears sound but allows for enough flexibility in course offerings as this program will need to explore the most appropriate mix of courses for the students that enroll. Courses will be designated as undergrad/grad when necessary but when appropriate graduate only courses can be offered. All prior curricular programming issues have been addressed.

STUDENTS

Student will undoubtedly apply from within the department. The mix of flexible courses with a focus area should be appealing to most students. Standards for admission have been set and faculty advisors/mentors will be assigned. Graduates will benefit from this degree and can be a great resource to the State. Employment opportunities exist in several venues. Enrollment of sufficient students should not be a problem. Admission questions have been addressed in the proposal.

RESOURCES

Faculty resource is the strong suit in this proposal. Faculty members have notable talent with much to offer to MA students. Faculty have strong connections and can extend this to students. Little is mentioned regarding physical resources for the 6-8 or so students to be admitted. The small initial admission may have no impact on physical resource. Budgetary resource is not fully addressed but it is unlikely that the 6-8 student class size will impact the program and tuition revenue should assist building programmatic resource and should be designated solely for this purpose.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Evolution of program assessment and evaluation will most likely occur within the scope of the advisory board. An evaluation plan with timelines would be helpful and should be presented to the advisory board for their input and further development early on in the program. This would ensure that activities and benchmarks related to the MA program are scrutinized by community members (and students/graduates when appointed). Budgetary and physical resource should be evaluated addressed by the evaluation plan. MA faculty may want to consider viewing other graduate evaluation plans or consult with IUPUI experts to build an evaluation plan that would measure the important attributes of this degree in an on-going manner.

All major concerns from prior reviews have been discussed in the revised proposal. The assessment/evaluation criteria have been stated but further work is needed in conjunction with the advisory committee.