

8-15-1996

# Anthropology Major Program Revision

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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Routing # 21 95-96

Resolution #20  
1995-1996

1995-96

TO: President John E. Van de Wetering  
FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on: *May 6, 1996*  
RE: I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)  
II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)  
III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)  
For your information

S.U.N.Y.  
COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT  
RECEIVED

AUG 15 1996

FACULTY SENATE  
BROCKPORT, NY 14420

SUBJ: ***Anthropology Major Program Revision***

Signed: *Roger M. Wei* Date Sent: *5/6/96*  
(Faculty Senate President)



TO: The Faculty Senate  
FROM: President John E. Van de Wetering  
RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution  
a. Accepted. Effective Date: *JAN 16*  
b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on   /  /    
c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation  
II, III.  
a. Received and acknowledged  
b. Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRIBUTION: *Coversheet only - full document*  
*can be obtained through Faculty Senate*

Distribution Date: *8/12/96* Signed: *[Signature]*  
(President of the College)

forms disk::resform.wp6:1995/10/31. ask

## DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

### ANTHROPOLOGY MAJOR PROGRAM REVISION

The Anthropology Department submits the following Anthropology major program revision for consideration by the Faculty Senate.

**I. Rationale for change:** The current anthropology program (the one we wish to replace) was based on a mission plan worked out between the Department and the Administration in the early 1980's as well as on several assumptions which have since become obsolete. These assumptions (and the resulting Departmental Goals) were predicated on the following: (1) that the Anthropology Major would serve a small (<20) group of high quality majors; (2) that the anthropology major could best serve these students by focusing on individualized instruction that placed a heavy emphasis on research methods; (3) that a tightly structured sequence of required upper division research and writing courses, beginning in the Junior year, and progressing in lock-step fashion through the culminating Senior Thesis, were necessary to achieve these ends; and (4) that a majority of our graduates would enter careers or graduate programs requiring these research methods.

In recent years we have realized that the very tightness of that program created roadblocks for students who might wish to pursue an anthropology major but could not easily mesh its demands with other curricular demands that competed for their time and energies. Specifically: (1) the lock-step sequence of required Junior and Senior courses made it virtually impossible for majors to complete internships, overseas study programs and other experiences that would have enhanced the major unless they were prepared to spend an extra semester (or year) to complete the degree; (2) students who entered the major in midyear often found themselves locked out of prerequisite courses necessary to complete the Junior-Senior sequence; (3) although many of our majors could enhance their prospects for graduate school or direct entry into the job market by completing a second major, the sequencing of major courses often precluded this option; (4) in recent years the number of anthropology majors has more than doubled, making it particularly difficult to staff the individualized research courses upon which the major was based; (5) the changing mission of the College necessitates that we serve a broader spectrum of students, including adult students, students seeking better preparation for immediate entry into the job market, students with conflicting work and family demands.

The proposed changes add a degree of flexibility in course selection and a choice of options which meet diverse student needs. These innovations, described below and on the attached table (*Courses of Study*), allow the Anthropology Department to maintain its commitment to quality while better serving a broader base of students, consistent with the College's Mission Statement.

#### **II. The Two Major Options proposal:**

The revised anthropology major (See attached *Courses of Study...* for details) offers two options that address the diverse nature of our student body and the changing employment market for

anthropology graduates. In addition, they address problems in the old major that made it difficult for students to complete the major within a reasonable time span or mesh it with extra-departmental career or curricular goals. The proposed changes allow us to staff enough major courses to keep the two options viable and, at the same time, provide students with enough flexibility to transfer from one option to another if their interests and needs change.

**Option I. Liberal Arts Anthropology Option (37 credits):** A traditional "stand-alone" major for students who are interested in anthropology but who will probably not enter anthropology as a career, *per se*. Such students might include those with another major outside of anthropology or students in pre-professional programs such as pre-law, pre-medical, elementary and secondary education certification. Option I provides students with a broad perspective on anthropology by including within it courses in each of the three sub-disciplines (Socio/Cultural Anthropology, Physical/Biological Anthropology and Archaeology).

**Option II. Anthropology as a Profession / Pre-Graduate School Option (40 credits):** An expanded major for students who will probably (1) enter the work force directly as practitioner/applied anthropologists, Cultural Resources Management (CRM) staff, CRM archaeologists, museum staff, Peace Corps volunteers, etc. and/or (2) attend graduate programs in anthropology. This option is founded on the assumption that potential employers and graduate schools seek superior students with a work ethic, research and communication skills, and practical experience that they can translate immediately and directly into the job or graduate school. This major differs from Option I in requiring that students complete additional collateral courses and a senior thesis project or practicum. In addition, this option requires that students have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 in anthropology courses in order to register for the Senior Thesis or Practicum.

### III. Discussion:

The revised curriculum differs from the old program in several ways. We eliminated the lock-step Junior-Senior research course sequence. Research methods have been integrated into other content courses which are spread across the curriculum. This allows students to meet the research methods requirement by completing one of several courses (instead of the single research methods course required under the old curriculum). The new curriculum requires students in Options I and II to complete a new one-credit course, *Anthropology and Careers*, preferably before the Junior year, to assist them in making more realistic plans about programmatic and career goals, and to take corrective actions should their career goals change. Finally, the revised program explicitly addresses the changing realities of the job market for those students who will seek immediate employment after graduation. It also addresses the needs of those students who wish to continue their education at the graduate school level.

Courses of study for the new two option major program.

Description	Old Program (35 cr.)	Option I. (37 cr.) Liberal Arts Anthropology Major	Option II. (40 cr.) Anthropology as a Career & Pre-Graduate School Major
		A single track major emphasizing anthropological research. This program was limited by a stepwise sequence of Junior and Senior level courses that made it difficult for students to complete second majors or pursue other anthropologically relevant experiences such as overseas study.	A traditional "stand-alone" major for students who are interested in anthropology but who will probably not enter anthropology as a career, <i>per se</i> . Such students might include those with another major outside of anthropology or students in pre-professional programs such as pre-law, pre-medical, elementary and secondary education certification. The Liberal Arts Anthropology Option provides students with a broad perspective on anthropology, by relating its three sub-disciplines (Socio/Cultural Anthropology, Physical/Biological Anthropology and Archaeology).  <b>Rationale:</b> Most majors would enrol in this program. Additionally, students who wish to transfer to Option II can do so without encountering major roadblocks. Spreading course requirements over three disciplines also provides a base for supporting courses that can be tailored to meet students' special interests.
	<b>Program of Courses</b>	<b>Program of Courses</b>	<b>Program of Courses</b>
Introductory courses	3 cr. ANT 100 - Intro. to Cultural Anth. 3 cr. ANT 110 - Intro. to Archaeology 4 cr. ANT 1231 - Intro. to Human Evolution w/Lab <hr/> 10 cr.	3 cr. ANT 100 - Intro. to Cultural Anth. 3 cr. ANT 110 - Intro. to Archaeology 3 cr. ANT 120 - Intro. to Human Evolution <hr/> 9 cr.	3 cr. ANT 100 - Intro. to Cultural Anth. 3 cr. ANT 110 - Intro. to Archaeology 3 cr. ANT 120 - Intro. to Human Evolution <hr/> 9 cr.
Intermediate core	3 cr. ANT 370 - <i>Anth. Literature</i> 3 cr. One course covering world area. 3 cr. One course covering contemporary sociocultural problem <hr/> 9 cr.	3 cr. ANT 200- <i>Ethnographic Experience</i> 3 cr. ANT 370 - <i>Anth. Literature</i> 1 cr. ANT 395 - <i>Anth. &amp; Careers</i> <hr/> 7 cr.	3 cr. ANT 200- <i>Ethnographic Experience</i> 3 cr. ANT 370 - <i>Anth. Literature</i> 1 cr. ANT 395 - <i>Anth. &amp; Careers</i> <hr/> 7 cr.
Sub-discipline courses:		3 cr. 3/400 level physical anthro. course 3 cr. 3/400 level archaeology course 3 cr. 3/400 level cultural anthro. course <hr/> 9 cr.	3 cr. 3/400 level physical anthro. course 3 cr. 3/400 level archaeology course 3 cr. 3/400 level cultural anthro. course <hr/> 9 cr.
Methods course	3 cr. ANT 394 - <i>Anth. Research</i> 1 cr. ANT 494 - <i>Research Design Sem</i> <hr/> 4 cr.	3 cr. One course in anthropological methods, such as ANT 394, 403, 441, 442. <hr/> 3 cr.	3 cr. One course in anthropological methods, such as ANT 394, 403, 441, 442. <hr/> 3 cr.
Additional requirements	3 cr. ANT 496: <i>Senior Seminar</i> <hr/> 3 cr.		3 cr. ANT 496 <i>Senior thesis project</i> or 3 cr. BCEC 461 <i>Anthro. Practicum</i> <hr/> 3 cr.
Req. Collat. Course	3 cr. SOC 200 - <i>Social Statistics</i> or _____ equivalent <hr/> 3 cr.		3 cr. One course in statistics or computer applications, approved by Dept. <hr/> 3 cr.

	Old Program (35 cr.) contd.	Option I. (37 cr.) contd.	Option II. (40 cr.) contd.
Electives	6 cr. Two electives at 300/400 level, as approved by major's advisor	Additional courses chosen in consultation with advisor such that total number of credits in major totals 37. May include up to two courses from outside of department if (1) relevant to course of study and (2) approved in writing by Anthropology department.	Additional courses chosen in consultation with advisor such that total number of credits in major totals 40. May include up to two courses from outside of department if (1) relevant to course of study and (2) approved in writing by Anthropology Department.
Recommended courses		Courses in foreign language (4 semesters), statistics, computer applications, advanced writing.  Semester abroad program.  Internship or Co-op	Courses in foreign language (4 semesters), additional statistics and computer applications, advanced composition and/or approved writing courses.  Semester abroad program.  Internship or Co-op  Additional courses outside of anthropology, as recommended by major advisor, relevant to career goals or graduate school goals.