

## Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

**To:** The UVM Faculty Senate

**From:** Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Laura Almstead, Chair

**Date:** December 7, 2018

**Re:** Approval of a proposal for a new Bachelor of Science in Anthropology submitted by the College of Arts and Sciences

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At its meeting on December 6, 2018, the Curricular Affairs Committee approved the actions recommended in the following memo.

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The Curricular Affairs Committee approved a proposal for a new Bachelor of Science in Anthropology from the Department of Anthropology in the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS). The new program will be overseen by the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the department, currently Scott Van Keuren. If approved by the Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees, the new program will be offered starting fall 2019.

### ***Program Description and Rationale***

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Anthropology is an academically-intensive degree program that focuses on scientific and quantitative approaches to the anthropological study of human diversity and change. With an emphasis on analytical training, quantitative methods, as well as data collection, management, and interpretation, the proposed Anthropology BS will provide advanced training for undergraduates interested in fields that rely on scientific methods to analyze human biological and cultural diversity. Students completing the proposed BS in Anthropology will be well-positioned to compete for several local and regional career paths, including archaeological research, museums, forensics, and health services fields. The BS will also provide a strong foundation for students seeking graduate training in anthropology.

Anthropology is a diverse discipline that includes cultural, linguistic, biological, and archaeological fields. Due to this diversity, anthropology graduate programs do not outline specific undergraduate courses that applicants should take. However, students applying for graduate studies in Anthropology are expected to take coursework to prepare them for specific fields. Although the existing BA in Anthropology prepares students for graduate programs in cultural anthropology, it is not as effective at guiding students who will go on to pursue fields in archaeology, medicine, forensics, and biological anthropology. The proposed BS in Anthropology will fill this need, as well as catering to anthropology majors completing a pre-medicine curriculum or pursuing other career paths in lieu of graduate school.

### ***Relationship to Existing Programs***

There are no comparable BS programs at UVM. Although the existing BA in Anthropology provides options to concentrate in either Archaeology and Heritage Management or Global Health, the proposed BS will offer a more formal and expanded degree option for advanced students interested in graduate studies or post-

baccalaureate careers in anthropology and related fields. The proposed BS in Anthropology offers greater depth and breadth within the discipline and tracks students through specific coursework exploring the scientific study of archaeology, biological anthropology, and medical anthropology. Additionally, the BS requires more rigorous training in the natural sciences and in statistics to support research methodologies within these subdisciplines in anthropology (see Curriculum section). A student graduating with a BS in Anthropology will possess a range of technical skills for use in laboratory and field settings.

Nationally, the proposers indicated that almost half of the 50 departments listed in the 2011 National Research Council rankings of graduate programs in anthropology offer BS degrees (<https://www.chronicle.com/article/NRC-Rankings-Overview-/124703>). In developing the proposal, the proposers evaluated Bachelor of Science programs in nine highly-ranked anthropology departments at four-year public and private institutions (e.g. Pennsylvania State University, University of Florida). All nine departments offer both BA and BS degrees. The proposers indicated that the BS programs emphasize exposure and training to scientific and quantitative analyses and require mathematics (or statistics) and natural science courses to supplement anthropology offerings. Despite the availability of anthropology BS degrees nationally, there are no comparable programs at universities that engage in regional participation with UVM. The Department of Anthropology at UVM is one of the largest undergraduate-focused programs in the nation. Unlike comparable departments at other institutions that focus on socio-cultural anthropology, UVM's Anthropology Department is unique in its degree of commitment to the four subfields: archaeology, biological anthropology, sociocultural anthropology, and linguistic anthropology. This interdisciplinarity distinguishes it from other undergraduate-only departments, as well as other university departments its size. Therefore, this proposed BS in Anthropology will be well-positioned to attract prospective students who might be surveying other programs in the Northeast.

### ***Evidence of Interest, Anticipated Enrollments and Impact on Existing Programs***

At a Town Hall meeting with Anthropology faculty last spring, the proposers indicated that Anthropology majors expressed overwhelming support for a BS program. The proposers stated that a subset of majors (25/135) with interests in the biological and archaeological sciences, pre-medicine, and cultural or biological approaches to medical anthropology have enrolled in two relatively new, optional concentrations: Global Health and Archaeology/Heritage Management. Based on these numbers, they estimate that approximately 8 to 10 students will enroll in the BS program during the first academic year and hope to eventually grow to a total of 18 to 20 students in the new program.

The proposers do not anticipate inauguration of a BS in Anthropology will affect other programs. The proposed BS would appeal to a subset of students that would have previously pursued an Anthropology BA. Advanced students in the department already seek out additional courses in statistics, biology, etc. The chairs of Math/Statistics, Biology, Chemistry, and Geology all provided memos of support.

### ***Curriculum***

The proposed BS in Anthropology will require 41 to 43 credits in anthropology courses (see table on the following page) as well as two courses in the same foreign language (6 credits) at an appropriate level. Additionally, students will take six credits in statistics including STAT 141 and either STAT 183 or STAT 200, plus two four-credit BIOL, BCOR, CHEM, or GEOL laboratory courses. Other statistics courses may be substituted with approval from the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

## Required Courses

<b>INTRODUCTORY COURSES (12 credits)</b>	
ANTH 021	D2:SU: Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 024	D2:SU: Prehistoric Archaeology
ANTH 026	D2: Biological Anthropology
ANTH 028	D2: Linguistic Anthropology
<b>INTERMEDIATE COURSES (18 credits)</b>	
Four courses in anthropology at the 100-level and two additional anthropology courses at any level. At least 12 credits must be selected from the courses below.	
ANTH 040	Parenting and Childhood
ANTH 089	D2: Global Health Development & Diversity
ANTH 104	D2: Archaeology of the Americas
ANTH 106	Preserving the Past
ANTH 127	Modernity & Material Culture
ANTH 134	Prehistory of North America
ANTH 135	Prehistory of the US Southwest
ANTH 136*	Topics in Archaeology
ANTH 140	Primates and Anthropology
ANTH 141	Death, Burial, and Culture
ANTH 143	Forensic Anthropology
ANTH 146	Topics in Biological Anthropology
ANTH 160	D1: North American Indians
ANTH 164	Indians of the NE: Vermont
ANTH 172	D2: Gender, Sex and Culture
ANTH 173	D2: Foundations of Global Health
ANTH 174	D2: Culture, Health, and Healing
<b>Both of the courses below (1 credit each; 2 credits total)</b>	
ANTH 105	Introduction to the Major
ANTH 205	Senior Proseminar in Anthro
<b>ADVANCED COURSES (9 – 11 credits)</b>	
Three 200-level ANTH courses, with two of three selected from the courses below.	
ANTH 200	Fieldwork in Archaeology
ANTH 210	Archaeology Theory
ANTH 240	Human Osteology (4 credits)
ANTH 242	Research Methods Human Diversity (4 credits)
ANTH 245	Laboratory Archaeology Topics
ANTH 250	Museum Anthropology
ANTH 288	Anthropological Research in Global Health
ANTH 290	Methods of Ethnographic Fieldwork

\*New Course: ANTH 136 (Topics in Archaeology) will be established to phase out the use of the generic special topics courses (ANTH 195/196) and is at the public comment level in Courseleaf.

Only three credits from the following independent research courses may count toward the major: ANTH 192, 198, 292, 298; HON 202 and 203. Only three credits of the following practicum courses may count toward the major: ANTH 093, 191, 193, 291, and 293.

### ***Admission Requirements and Advising***

The proposed BS in Anthropology will open to all UVM undergraduates. All courses for the major must be taken for a letter grade and enrolled students must maintain an overall 2.0 grade-point average. Students will be assigned an advisor in the department that most aligns with their interests (e.g. archaeology, bioarcheology, medical anthropology). The Director of Undergraduate Studies will be available to advise anthropology minors and other non-majors who are interested in the program.

### ***Assessment***

The program will be evaluated by the department's Assessment Committee in concert with the department Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies. In addition to monitoring enrollment and retention in the program, the department will use a similar assessment plan established for the BA program, which employs indirect and direct means of assessing student satisfaction and outcomes, to evaluate the new BS in Anthropology. Since there is considerable flexibility in our plan and BA students will be allowed to take these classes, these assessment measures are suitable for the BS as well. A more specific means of assessing satisfaction and outcomes in laboratory courses and for the program overall will be added.

The department faculty will rely on student feedback collected during exit surveys, the annual Town Hall Meetings with majors and minors, and assessments of course content at various levels. The program will be formally assessed during the department's next Academic Program Review (AY 2023-24) based on protocol established for this process.

### ***Resource Requirements***

No new resources are required to launch the proposed BS in Anthropology. Present staff assignments may be adjusted depending on the number of students who pursue the new BS. Current faculty teach a range of lower- and upper-level courses that include area studies, anthropological theory, special-topic, and laboratory and field studies, and offer relevant courses to staff our BA Concentration in Anthropology of Global Health and BA Concentration in Archaeology and Heritage Management. These should adequately support the new program with no significant changes.

The department has recently remodeled both its seminar and laboratory spaces to enhance student training and research experiences. Further laboratory expansion is planned when the department acquires the photography lab on the fifth floor of Williams Hall (Rooms 505, 506, and 507).

### ***Evidence of Support***

The proposed BS in Anthropology was approved by the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee and by the College of Arts and Sciences faculty. Additional memos of support were provided by the chairs of the Departments of Geology, Mathematics and Statistics, Biology, and Chemistry.

**Summary**

The proposed BS in Anthropology will provide students with an option to study in greater depth within the discipline, particularly in subdisciplines of archaeology and biological/medial anthropology. Students will receive more analytical training and emerge better prepared for careers in archaeology, medicine, forensics, and biological anthropology. The new program makes use of the diversity in academic interest of the Department of Anthropology faculty to offer a well-designed curriculum that allows students to gain knowledge in all of the core areas of Anthropology. There is evidence of interest from students currently pursuing a BA in Anthropology. Given that there are no comparable programs at universities that engage in regional participation with UVM and the aforementioned interdisciplinarity of the department, the proposed BS in Anthropology is well-positioned to attract prospective students surveying Anthropology programs in the Northeast.