

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: Anthropology

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	name	email	phone	dept
dept chair	Kevin Eckert	eckert@umbc.edu	5-5698	Socy &
contact	Sarah Chard	schard@umbc.edu	5-3380	Socy &

Specifics (see instructions):

The Anthropology program would like to modify the list of anthropology courses that can be taken to fulfill the required 18 credits of anthropology electives. Specifically, we would like to modify the requirement such that any of our standard (non P/F) Anthropology courses may be taken towards these 18 credits of electives. Currently the requirement in the course catalog reads:

2. Other Requirements (18 credits). Students must also complete the following:
(a) A minimum of four courses from the following:

ANTH 212 The Ethnographer's World
ANTH 297 Selected Topics in Anthropology
ANTH 302 Human Evolution: Physical Anthropology and Archaeology
ANTH 304 Family, Kin and Groups: The Anthropology of Social Organization
ANTH 310 Ethnographic Film
ANTH 311 Urban Anthropology
ANTH 312 Medical Anthropology
ANTH 313 Applied Anthropology
ANTH 314 Psychological Anthropology
ANTH 316 Anthropology of Religion
ANTH 317 Contemporary Problems in Anthropological Perspective
ANTH 318 Anthropology of Science and Technology
ANTH 320 Witchcraft and Magic
ANTH 326 American-Indian Cultures
ANTH 397 Selected Topics in Anthropology
ANTH 399 Independent Study in Anthropology
ANTH 402 Ethnography of Communication
ANTH 416 Cyberspace, Culture and Society
ANTH 419 Qualitative Methods in Social Research
ANTH 429 Aging in Cultural Context
ANTH 497 Advanced Selected Topics in Anthropology
ANTH 498 Selected Topics in Anthropology
ANTH 499 Advanced Independent Study in Anthropology

(b) Any two additional anthropology or sociology courses, which may include any remaining from (a).

We propose to change the requirement to read:

2. Other requirements (18 credits). Students must also complete eighteen additional credits of Anthropology or Sociology with a grade of "C" or better. Twelve of these eighteen credits must be in Anthropology. The remaining six credits may be in Anthropology or Sociology (thus, a maximum of six credits may be in Sociology). In addition, a minimum of twelve of these credits must be 300 level or above. Socy 396 and courses that are P/F may not be counted toward this requirement.

Rationale (see instructions):

1. The rationale for the change is that our program has expanded and continues to expand since the list of electives was first developed. The list does not incorporate new, equally relevant electives that have been added to our permanent course catalog. Rather than updating the list with each additional new course, we propose to change the wording of the requirement. This change will help simplify the administration of the program and advising, as well as ensure that our majors receive credit for all of their graded anthropology coursework.

Regarding the concern raised by the UGC this past spring we have added the condition that a minimum of twelve of the eighteen credits must be 300 level or above. This wording change makes the new requirement consistent with the previous requirement that included a de facto limit on lower level courses.

2. This change provides students with greater flexibility in choosing their electives. The issue of courses being discontinued is not relevant to this change nor is there a need to grandfather students who entered UMBC prior to spring 2011.

3. We are not proposing to change the number of credits required for the major.