

Administrative and Educational Support Report*

Department of Psychology & Anthropology

**Annual Action Plan
Annual Assessment Report**

June 2004 – May 2005

***Student Learning Outcomes for this department are available at
<http://ie.panam.edu/CoSBSLearningOutcomes.htm>**



Annual Action Plan: June 1, 2004–May 31, 2005

Unit: Department of Psychology and Anthropology

UTPA Mission: The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) serves the higher education needs of a rapidly growing, international, multicultural population in the South Texas Region. The University preserves, transmits and creates knowledge to serve the cultural, civic, and economic advancement of the region and the state. The University provides students advanced instruction in academic programs offered through innovative delivery systems that lead to professional certification, and baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees. Through teaching, research, creative activity and public service, UTPA prepares students for lifelong learning and leadership roles in the state, nation and world community.

Division: Academic Affairs **Unit Head:** Dr. Wendy James-Aldridge

Unit Mission: The Department of Psychology and Anthropology is committed to excellence in instruction, student performance, research, scholarly accomplishment, and professional services. At the graduate level, the department provides opportunities for students with baccalaureate degrees to pursue Master’s degree level studies in clinical or experimental psychology, and has proposed and submitted a proposal for a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. The department is committed to providing effective instructional opportunities for all students at the University, regardless of area of concentration. It also seeks to nurture and support the scholarly and creative activities of its faculty, to maintain currency of knowledge in the field and extend the boundaries of human knowledge and understanding.

Unit Goal: Increase academic and co-curricular opportunities for freshmen in the Department of Psychology and Anthropology.

Link to UTPA Goal(s):
 1: Ensure undergraduate student access and success
 2: Enhance graduate education and research

Unit Objective (Action Priority: #1 is highest)	Link to UTPA Objective	Expected Outcome for Unit Objective (AA-Measurable Objective)	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Expected Outcomes	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Expected Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY05
Approval of learning community course (1)	2	Double, at minimum, the number of Psychology and Anthropology faculty who teach learning community classes by December 2005	Design at least one learning community class involving the Department of Psychology and Anthropology. Obtain approval of	At least one learning community class/course will be designed involving the Department of Psychology and Anthropology and at least one other unit on campus. The design of	None None

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Unit Objective (Action Priority: #1 is highest)	Link to UTPA Objective	Expected Outcome for Unit Objective (AA-Measurable Objective)	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Expected Outcomes	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Expected Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY05
			<p>learning community activity form collaborating department.</p> <p>Obtain final configuration of learning community classes.</p> <p>Compare number of learning community classes offered by the department in December 2003 with those planned to be offered in May 2005.</p>	<p>the course and the planned student activities will be shared with the campus Learning Communities group and with the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Psychology and Anthropology chair will be responsible for submitting to the College dean a report describing the activities of the Learning Community and any preliminary data as to improvement of student pass rates.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Data from URAP office.</p>
Improvement of student advising (2)	2, 4	Create, in the Department of Psychology and Anthropology, a freshman advising program that increases by 5%, the participation of freshmen who have declared majors.	<p>Appoint a committee of department faculty and students to serve as an advising committee.</p> <p>Develop, in cooperation with UTPA's Advisement Task Force, an advising plan that will focus on improving the department's student retention and graduation rates.</p> <p>Implement the department's advising plan.</p>	<p>A department advisement plan will be developed by a committee made up of Psychology and Anthropology faculty and students. The plan will be reviewed by the campus Task Force responsible for developing the campus advising plan. Implementation of the advising plan will follow with Spring 2005 students. The Department chair and faculty of the Department of</p>	None

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				Psychology and Anthropology will develop the advising plan and will serve as the initial implementers of the new plan.	
Approval of freshman seminar (3)	2	Create a freshman seminar activity in the Department of Psychology and Anthropology by the end of AY 2005	Design a freshman seminar course to help in developing students of Psychology and Anthropology. Implement the new freshman seminar course.	A freshman seminar course will be developed by the faculty of the Department of Psychology and Anthropology. The course will be designed to attract majors to the Department of Psychology and Anthropology and to help freshmen students in areas of orientation to college life, leadership skills, internship and career opportunities, presentation skills, and written and oral communication skills. The department chair will be responsible for assuring that the course is developed and offered by the Spring semester of 2005.	Funding for travel to bring seminar speakers to campus and for honoraria for speakers.



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Unit Objective (Priority: #1 is highest)	Link to UTPA Objective	Expected Outcome	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Approval of learning community course (1)	2	Double, at minimum, the number of Psychology and Anthropology faculty who teach learning community classes by December 2005	At least one learning community class/course will be designed involving the Department of Psychology and Anthropology and at least one other unit on	No learning community class was designed during the 04-05 academic year, i.e., there was no change in number of faculty who teach learning	The chair has planned discussion of this topic by the faculty during the Fall semester.

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			<p>campus. The design of the course and the planned student activities will be shared with the campus Learning Communities group and with the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Psychology and Anthropology chair will be responsible for submitting to the College dean a report describing the activities of the Learning Community and any preliminary data as to improvement of student pass rates.</p>	<p>community classes.</p>	
<p>Improvement of student advising (2)</p>	<p>2, 4</p>	<p>Create, in the Department of Psychology and Anthropology, a freshman advising program that increases by 5%, the participation of freshmen who have declared majors.</p>	<p>A department advisement plan will be developed by a committee made up of Psychology and Anthropology faculty and students. The plan will be reviewed by the campus Task Force responsible for developing the campus advising plan. Implementation of the advising plan will follow with Spring 2005 students. The Department chair and</p>	<p>A Department Advisement Committee was formed December 2004.</p> <p>Students reported dissatisfaction with past method in which ~35 undergraduate* psychology advisees are assigned each year to each tenured/tenure track faculty member by alphabetical order of name of both students and faculty. (Simple process, but can result in</p>	<p>Advising procedure was revised such that ~35 advisees are assigned to each faculty member, but students remain assigned to same advisor throughout their stay at UTPA. New incoming advisees are assigned to faculty on a rotating basis to maintain an equitable advising load.</p>

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			<p>faculty of the Department of Psychology and Anthropology will develop the advising plan and will serve as the initial implementers of the new plan.</p>	<p>students shifting from one advisor to another from year to year.)</p> <p>Approximate number of majors during AY 2003-2004 = 445</p> <p>Approximate number of psychology majors during AY 2004-2005 = 470, an increase of 5.6% in number of majors from the previous year.</p> <hr/> <p>— *psychology graduate advising is performed by psychology graduate program director; anthropology undergraduate advising is performed by anthropology coordinator.</p>	
Approval of freshman seminar (3)	2	Create a freshman seminar activity in the Department of Psychology and Anthropology by the end of AY 2005	A freshman seminar course will be developed by the faculty of the Department of Psychology and Anthropology. The course will be designed to attract majors to the Department of Psychology and Anthropology and to help	<p>This concept was folded into what became the campus Learning Framework course.</p> <p>Six to seven sections of UNIV 1301 were offered both Fall 2004 and Spring 2005 for Social and Behavioral Sciences majors, including</p>	Evaluation of courses is underway. Results not yet available.

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			freshmen students in areas of orientation to college life, leadership skills, internship and career opportunities, presentation skills, and written and oral communication skills. The department chair will be responsible for assuring that the course is developed and offered by the Spring semester of 2005.	psychology and anthropology. Five psychology faculty members participated in presenting the “psychology” portion of the course. Two anthropology faculty members participated in presenting the “anthropology” portion of the course.	

Additional Resources Needed (if any) that were requested for FY06 during the budget cycle:
 Requested increases in department operating expenses totaling \$15,402 to support addition of 4 new faculty and increasing student enrollment, with that total broken down as follows:
 Classified salary (from 50% FTE to 100% FTE): \$7902
 Operating Budget Pool: \$2000
 Travel Budget Pool: \$4000
 One-Time Expense (instructional support materials): \$1500