

UCI Assessment Grant Program—Spring 2008 Proposal Abstracts

- **Victoria Bernal, Anthropology: What Do Anthropology Majors Learn?**

This project involves: 1) identifying and clarifying our ‘learning outcome’ goals for anthropology majors, 2) relating those outcomes to our curriculum, requirements, syllabi, and course assignments, 3) developing indicators and ways of measuring actual student learning outcomes, and 4) using this feedback to improve our course offerings and student learning experiences in anthropology. It will most likely also lead to revising course catalogue descriptions and our website. Ideally, this process will improve the learning experience for our majors and make the anthropology major more attractive to new students by highlighting for them the specific kinds of knowledge and skills they stand to gain.

The proposed activities include: researching to create an archive of learning outcomes and assessments used by other anthropology departments, conducting a faculty retreat and department meetings to discuss desired outcomes and assessments as well as to explore ways to improve learning outcomes, collecting and analyzing syllabi used in our department, collecting and analyzing student work, particularly student papers from a range of anthropology classes to gain insights into various aspects and trajectories of student learning in our classes, and familiarizing all department members with the assessment process and planning future assessments.