

SENATE QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
Cyclical Review of the graduate and undergraduate programs
in Anthropology
Executive Summary and Final Assessment Report

This Executive Summary and Final Assessment Report of the cyclical review of Carleton's graduate and undergraduate programs in Anthropology are provided pursuant to the provincial Quality Assurance Framework and Carleton's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The graduate and undergraduate programs in Anthropology reside in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, a unit administered by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

As a consequence of the review, the programs were categorized by Carleton University's Senate Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (SQAPC) as being of good quality. (Carleton's IQAP 7.2.13-7.2.14).

The External Reviewers' report offered a very positive assessment of the programs. Within the context of this positive assessment, the report nonetheless made a number of recommendations for the continuing enhancement of the programs. These recommendations were productively addressed by the Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in responses to the External Reviewers' report and Implementation on Plan that was submitted to SQAPC on April 23rd, 2026.

FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Introduction

The graduate and undergraduate programs in Anthropology reside in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, a unit administered by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. This review was conducted pursuant to the Quality Assurance Framework and Carleton's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP). As a consequence of the review, the programs were categorized by Carleton University's Senate Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (SQAPC) as being of good quality. (Carleton's IQAP 7.2.13-14).

The site visit, which took place on September 24th and 25th, 2025, was conducted by Dr. Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier from University of Victoria, and Dr. Jennifer Liu from University of Waterloo. The site visit involved formal meetings with the Vice-Provost (Academic and Global Learning), the Associate Vice-President (Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives), the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the Vice-Provost Graduate Studies and the Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The review committee also met with faculty members (Anthropology), administrative staff, and undergraduate and graduate students.

The External Reviewers' report, submitted on October 27th, 2025 offered a very positive assessment of the program.

This Final Assessment Report provides a summary of:

- Strengths of the programs
- Challenges faced by the programs
- Opportunities for program improvement and enhancement
- The Outcome of the Review
- The Implementation Plan

This report draws on five documents:

- The Self-study developed by members of the Department of Anthropology (Appendix A)
- The Report of the External Review Committee (Appendix B).
- The response and implementation plan from the Department of Anthropology (Appendix C)
- The Response from the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Appendix D).
- The internal discussant's recommendation report (Appendix E).

Appendix F contains brief biographies of the members of the External Review Committee.

This Final Assessment Report contains the Implementation Plan (Appendix C) developed by the Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and agreed to by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for the implementation of recommendations for program enhancement identified as part of the cyclical program review process.

The Implementation Plan identifies who is responsible for implementing the agreed upon recommendations, as well as the timelines for implementation and reporting.

Strengths of the programs

General

The External Reviewers' Report states "Based on our observations and conversations, we conclude that the Anthropology Program provides high-quality education at both undergraduate and graduate levels. We were particularly impressed by the high levels of student satisfaction expressed across our two meetings with graduate and undergraduate students. Faculty, CIs and Staff support were frequently highlighted as key strengths of the student experience" (p. 4).

Faculty

Speaking with regard to faculty, the external reviewers' stated:

"The AP's strength clearly comes from its people; faculty members, staff and students all appear to be collegial and energetic. This is an accomplished and dedicated group. The 13 faculty members collectively represent a high level of research activity and most hold recent or current funding. The faculty members represent a broad range of topical expertise across sociocultural anthropology, and this is reflected in their research output as well as in the breadth of their supervisory work (i.e. dissertation and thesis topics). Many are active in other departments or units, as indicated by cross-appointments as well as service and administrative contributions. Several also serve important roles outside the university, which seems especially appropriate given the Ottawa location." (p. 4).

Curriculum

The external reviewers noted that they were "impressed by the program's responsiveness to previous reviews and its openness to constructive feedback from its community. Many of the changes already in place, including curricular innovations, a commitment to decolonial pedagogy, and the development of experiential learning opportunities, reflect a department actively engaging with the evolving landscape of the discipline, higher education, and broader societal concerns" (p. 11).

Opportunities for program improvement and enhancement

The External Reviewers' Report made 7 recommendations for improvement:

1. Concern: Secure a sustainable support staff work environment.
 - 1.1. Hire a Graduate Administrative Assistant
 - 1.2. Clarify Expectations and Streamline Work Processes
2. Weakness: Ensure a more equitable distribution between Sociology and Anthropology.
3. Concern: Increase support for Anthropology teaching stream faculty member.
4. Opportunity: Pursue decolonial, Indigenous, and Antiracist Initiatives within and beyond the classroom.
 - 4.1. Revisit course learning objectives to reflect decolonial and antiracist pedagogies
 - 4.2. Hire an Indigenous Scholar
 - 4.3. Revive faculty and student engagement on antiracism
5. Opportunity: Continue and expand efforts to foster student social life on campus.
 - 5.1. Support the Ethnography Lab with space and funding
 - 5.2. Consider supporting an undergraduate student society
6. Concern: Develop additional graduate student funding strategies beyond FASS and Graduate Studies.

7. Opportunity: Establish departmental guidelines on the use of AI in teaching and learning.

The Outcome of the Review

As a consequence of the review, the graduate and undergraduate programs in Anthropology were categorized by Carleton University's Senate Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (SQAPC) as being of **GOOD QUALITY** (Carleton's IQAP 7.2.13-14).

The Implementation Plan

The recommendations that were put forward as a result of the review process were productively addressed by the Chair of Sociology and Anthropology and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in responses to the External Reviewers' report and Implementation Plan that was considered by SQAPC on April 23rd, 2026. The Department agreed unconditionally to recommendations #1.1, and #2, and agreed in principle to recommendations #1.2, #4.1, #5.2, #6 and #7. They also agreed to recommendations #3, #4.2, #4.3 and #5.1 while noting that additional resources could help facilitate these recommendations.

It is to be noted that Carleton's IQAP provides for the monitoring of implementation plans. A monitoring report is to be submitted by the academic units and Faculty Dean and forwarded to SQAPC for its review by June 1, 2027.

The Next Cyclical Review

The next cyclical review of the graduate/undergraduate programs in Anthropology will be conducted during the 2030-31 academic year.