

Palo Verde College

Program Outline Report

Program Basics	
Program Title:	Anthropology
Program Status:	Active from 2026-2027 Fall (2026FA)
Department:	Anthropology
Award Type:	Certificate of Achievement (Credit)
Program/Catalog Description	The Certificate of Achievement in Anthropology provides students with a broad introduction to the study of humans, past and present. Through coursework in cultural anthropology, biological anthropology, archaeology, and linguistic anthropology, students explore human evolution, cultural practices, global diversity, and the methods used to investigate human societies. This certificate equips students with analytical, observational, and cross-cultural understanding applicable to many academic and career pathways. It serves as a strong foundation for students pursuing further study in anthropology or related social sciences and functions as a stackable credential that supports progression into the Anthropology Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT). Note: This program aligns with the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (CAL-GETC) guidelines.
Control Number:	46555
Credential ID:	No value
Transferability:	Transferable to both UC and CSU
(SP01) Program TOP Code:	2202.00
(SP01) Program TOP Code:	Anthropology
(SP02) Student Program Award:	Certificate requiring 16 to fewer than 30 semester units
Maximum Credits:	21
Minimum Credits:	20
Curriculum Committee Approval Date:	03/12/2026
Board of Trustees Approval Date:	06/09/2026
External Review Approval Date:	06/09/2026

Proposal Details	
Proposal Start:	2026-2027 Fall (2026FA)
What changes have been made to the program:	No value
Program Justification:	This certificate builds toward the Anthropology ADT, allowing credits to be applied toward the degree
Submission Rationale	
New Program	

Program Requirements

Anthropology (Total 20-21)

Complete all of the following

Core Requirements (Total 10)

Complete all of the following

ANTHC1001 - Introduction to Biological Anthropology	3
ANT101 - Cultural Anthropology	3
ANTHC1001L - Biological Anthropology Lab	1
ANT201 - Introduction to Archaeology	3

List A (Total 3-4)

Complete the following number of credits: 3-4

PSY155 - Introduction to Statistical Analysis for the Social Sciences	3
STATC1000 - Introduction to Statistics	4

List B (Total 4)

Complete the following number of credits: 4

BIO210 - Human Anatomy	4
GEL101 - Physical Geology	4
GEL103 - Environmental Geology	4

List C (Total 3)

Complete all of the following

COMMC1000 - Introduction to Public Speaking	3
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Recommended Sequences

New Sequence

Term 1 (Total 7)

Core Requirements ANTHC1001 - Introduction to Biological Anthropology	3
List C COMMC1000 - Introduction to Public Speaking	3
Core Requirements ANTHC1001L - Biological Anthropology Lab	1

Term 2 (Total 6-7)

Core Requirements ANT101 - Cultural Anthropology	3
List A (Total 3-4)	
Take one of the following	
PSY155 - Introduction to Statistical Analysis for the Social Sciences	3
STATC1000 - Introduction to Statistics	4

Term 3 (Total 7)

List B (Total 4)	
Take one of the following	
BIO210 - Human Anatomy	4
GEL101 - Physical Geology	4

Program Outcomes

Anthropology

PSLO

Performance

PLO 1: Demonstrate foundational knowledge of the four subfields of anthropology: cultural, biological, archaeological, and linguistic.

70

PLO 2: Apply critical thinking and analytical skills to examine human behavior, culture, and evolution across time and space.

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PLO 3: Communicate anthropological concepts effectively, both orally and in writing, to diverse audiences.

70

Program Narrative

Narrative Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives

1. Gain a foundational understanding of the four subfields of anthropology: cultural, biological, archaeological, and linguistic.
2. Develop analytical and observational skills to examine human behavior, cultural practices, and societal structures.
3. Apply research methods used in anthropology, including data collection, analysis, and interpretation.
4. Demonstrate cross-cultural awareness and sensitivity to human diversity
5. Progress toward an Anthropology Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) or other related academic and career pathways.

Narrative Item 2. Catalog Description

The Certificate of Achievement in Anthropology provides students with a broad introduction to the study of humans, past and present. Through coursework in cultural anthropology, biological anthropology, archaeology, and linguistic anthropology, students explore human evolution, cultural practices, global diversity, and the research methods used to investigate human societies.

This program equips students with analytical, observational, and cross-cultural skills applicable to a variety of academic and career pathways. It is a stackable certificate designed to satisfy requirements for the Anthropology Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT), providing a strong foundation for further study in anthropology or related social sciences.

Alignment: This certificate aligns with the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (CAL-GETC) guidelines.

Narrative Item 3. Program Requirements

To earn the Certificate of Achievement in Anthropology, students must complete at least 16 units for the Certificate of Achievement: Anthropology with a completion of all courses with a minimum grade of C or better. Satisfy general education requirements as outlined in the CAL-GETC

Note: This certificate is a stackable credential that fulfills requirements toward the Anthropology Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT).

1. Semester 1: ANTH 1001, ANTH 1001L, List C
2. Semester 2: ANT 101, Any List A (PSY 115 or STAC 1000)
3. Semester 3: ANT 201 and Any List B (BIO 210 or GEL 101, or GEL 103)

Narrative Item 4. Master Planning

The Certificate of Achievement in Anthropology supports the college's master planning priorities by expanding access to high-quality academic pathways aligned with student transfer and workforce needs. This program strengthens the social sciences curriculum by offering an early, stackable credential that prepares students for progression into the Anthropology Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) and related fields.

The certificate aligns with institutional goals to increase student completion, improve transfer readiness, and promote equity by providing clear, structured pathways that serve both traditional and non-traditional learners. Additionally, the program supports long-term planning objectives by contributing to interdisciplinary learning, enhancing cultural and global awareness, and meeting the growing demand for foundational social science competencies across multiple academic and career sectors.

Narrative Item 5. Enrollment and Completer Projections

Initial enrollment in the Certificate of Achievement in Anthropology is expected to be moderate, reflecting steady student interest in the social sciences and anthropology coursework already offered. Based on current enrollment patterns in introductory anthropology courses, the program is projected to attract **15–25 students per year** during its first three years.

As awareness of the stackable certificate grows—particularly its alignment with the Anthropology Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) and CAL-GETC—enrollment is expected to increase gradually.

Annual completer projections are estimated at:

- **Year 1:** 8–10 completers
- **Year 2:** 10–12 completers
- **Year 3:** 12–15 completers

These projections reflect typical completion rates for short-term certificates and anticipate improved throughput as students identify the certificate as a milestone toward transfer or further study in anthropology and related fields.

Narrative Item 6. Place of Program in Curriculum/Similar Programs

The Certificate of Achievement in Anthropology occupies a foundational position within the college's social sciences curriculum. It serves as an entry-level, stackable credential that complements the existing Anthropology Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) by offering students a structured pathway toward degree completion and transfer preparation. The certificate strengthens program coherence by recognizing completion of core anthropology coursework already required for the ADT.

This program aligns closely with other certificates and degrees in the social sciences—such as Sociology, Psychology, and History—while maintaining a distinct disciplinary focus on human evolution, culture, and diversity. Unlike broader social science programs, the Anthropology certificate provides specialized preparation in the four subfields of anthropology and introduces students to discipline-specific research methods.

The certificate does not duplicate existing programs; instead, it enhances curricular options by offering a shorter, milestone credential that supports student progression, increases completion opportunities, and integrates seamlessly with transfer pathways.

Narrative Item 7. Similar Programs at Other Colleges in Service Area

No similar Certificate of Achievement in Anthropology exists at other colleges within the service area. This certificate fills a regional gap by providing a focused, stackable credential that supports student progression into the Anthropology Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) and related social science pathways. The program strengthens the college's curriculum by offering a unique opportunity for students seeking foundational preparation in anthropology that is not available at neighboring institutions.