

## BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATION

### UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology

#### RECOMMENDATION

**This program meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for baccalaureate degrees. There were no concerns identified in the review and approval is recommended.**

**Request:** The University of Cincinnati (UC) requests approval for a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Archaeology. The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology will provide interdisciplinary study in anthropology, classics, geography, geology, and history in the McMicken College of Arts and Sciences (A & S) and various programs of study in the College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning (DAAP) at UC. The proposed program will be administered by the Department of Anthropology.

**Purpose:** The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology incorporates coursework, fieldwork and research opportunities designed to provide students with fundamental theoretical and technical knowledge of archaeological practices. The program provides three tracks for students: archaeology of social complexity, geoarchaeology, and landscape archaeology.

- *Archaeology of Social Complexity* track is the systematic and cross-cultural study of the factors (e.g., climatic, demographic, economic) that affect the evolutionary trajectories of societies that represent various organizational structures and sociocultural levels of complexity (e.g., hunter-gatherers, tribes, chiefdoms, and state-level societies). This track is intended to serve liberal arts students who have an interest in world archaeology, human history and the diversity of ancient societies.
- *Geoarchaeology* track focuses on the application of geo-scientific principles, drawn from geophysics, sedimentology, social science, and geochronology, for understanding the origins, content variability, and formation history of the archaeological record. Students with a background in geoarchaeology are in demand nationally and regionally.
- *Landscape Archaeology* track refers to the suite of archaeological approaches such as survey archaeology, geographic information systems (GIS), global positioning systems, and remote sensing (terrestrial, airborne, and satellite) for determining the degree to which humans have altered terrain (i.e., the geophysical environment) and vegetation communities for economic, political, and ideological reasons.

Traditional archaeology programs, typically developed as degrees in anthropology, are more limited in approach and do not typically provide the range of options that will be available to UC students through these three tracks. The proposed BA in Archaeology will prepare students for employment in private engineering consulting firms and government agencies (city, county, state and federal) or for continued study at the graduate level.

**Curriculum:** The total program of study requires 180 credits, including a minimum of 55 credit hours in core and topical areas (including a field school) and 20 credits of courses for each designated track. The proposed degree program incorporates the development of knowledge and skill in oral and written communications, logical reasoning, qualitative and quantitative analysis, critical thinking, computer literacy, research planning, investigative strategies and interpretive skills as required by the study and practice of archaeology. The curricular design requires hands-on field research and laboratory experiences applied to real-world problem solving contexts. The program incorporates information about recent discoveries and current interpretations of archaeological research in order to demonstrate the evolving nature of knowledge and theories in the field. The proposed program builds from existing coursework and capitalizes on the unique resources of the university, including its proximity to community resources such as the Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati History Museum and Cincinnati Museum of Natural History as well as sites of national archaeological significance. The program builds on and strengthens existing relationships with local environmental engineering firms, government agencies, historic preservation programs and museums that employ professionals in cultural resource management.

**Enrollments:** The University of Cincinnati anticipates a class size of 12-30 students for each of the first five years of the program. The only undergraduate archaeology programs in Ohio are offered by Oberlin College and the College of Wooster.

**Resource/Faculty Needs:** The proposed program has strong institutional support. Existing resources (faculty, advising support, labs, and equipment) are sufficient to support the program for the initial years. The University of Cincinnati Center for Field Studies (UCCFS) is an off-campus resource located in Miami Whitewater Forest, Hamilton County, Ohio. The UCCFS provides a base of operations for on-site and regional field research, a protected area for long-term environmental research, and a training center for interdisciplinary research and education activities.