

What's New

Issue 3

January 25, 2022

Next Commission-wide Meeting

Thurs., Feb. 24 at 4:00 EST

Website Update

anthrocareerready.net is live!

An online list of applied and practicing anthropology resources for students and instructors is underway. Materials include:

- History and current state of application and practice
- Teaching and pedagogical approaches
- Information on sectors where anthropologists work
- Career and professional development

Matt Artz is designing an interactive version of this repository—available within a few weeks.



CAREER READINESS COMMISSION

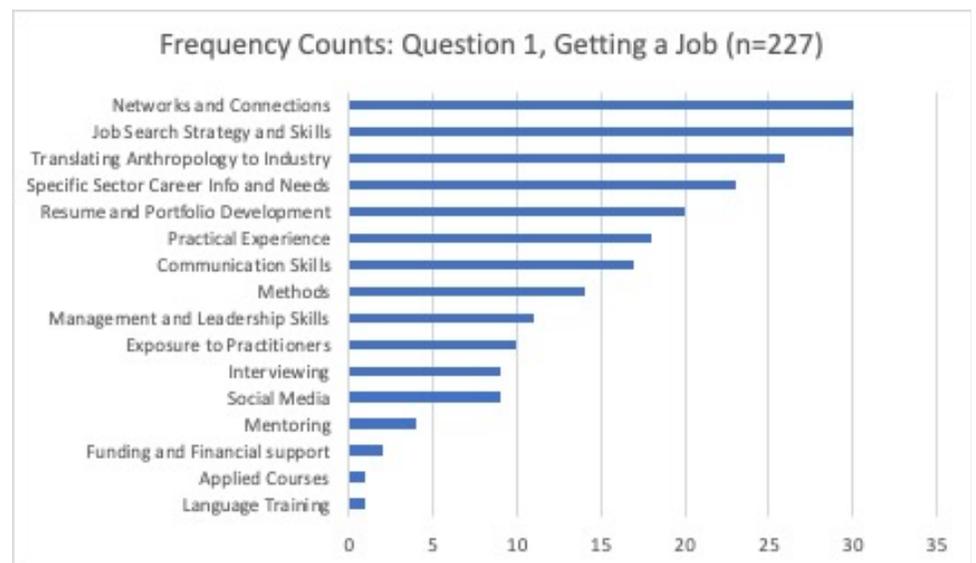
READ UP on some early results

This Newsletter issue focuses largely on what the Commission is learning from its rapid data collection and collaboration techniques.

Delphi Survey Results (Group I, led by Riall Nolan)

Thirty-four practitioners responded to our Delphi survey. The first question asked what was missing in their academic programs which would have been useful to them in *getting a job*. Key practitioner responses included:

- Help and guidance in developing their professional networks
- Training in job-hunting skills tailored specifically for careers in the business sector, non-profits, and/or government
- Being able to make the case for anthropology as they “pitch” themselves to potential employers.



With a few notable exceptions, these three top areas of emphasis are missing from our graduate programs. Sometimes there is some limited attention to these areas for undergraduates.

The second question asked what was missing in practitioners' academic programs which would have been useful to them in *doing their job effectively*. Some salient responses included:

World of Work Blog

Our blog is active, with new blogs posted every other week. This week's blog answers the question: "How do I help my students find work?" You can read it [here](#).

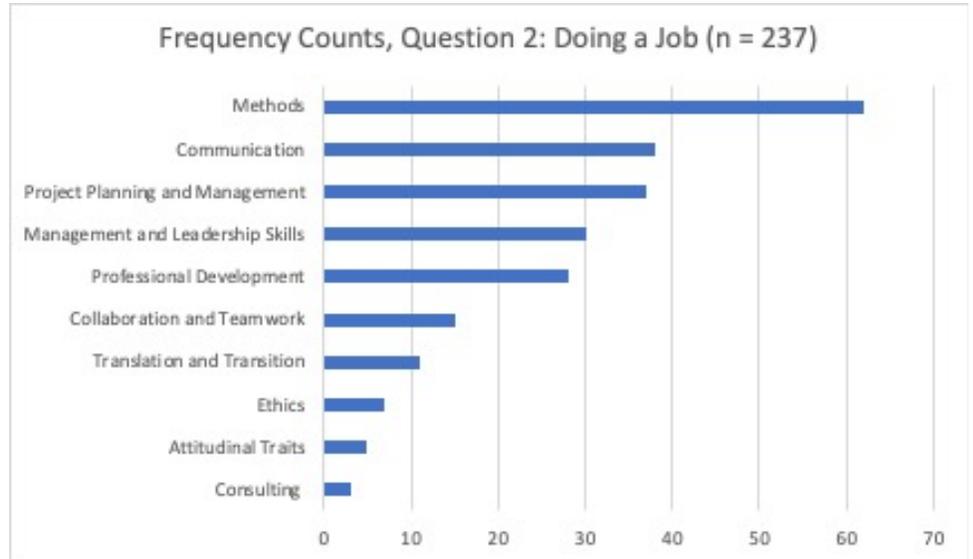
Upcoming blogs will feature [results-oriented resumes](#) (particularly important for students) and a [model for infusing professionalism](#) into an undergraduate anthropology program.

Podcasts

If you enjoy listening to podcasts and would like to know something about Business Anthropology, check this one out. You can listen to it [here](#).



- Methods, with many highly specialized (e.g., qualitative, quantitative, survey, rapid assessment, design, GIS)
- Communication—writing *and* speaking simply and clearly to clients, colleagues, and other stakeholders



Several responses to Question 2 focused on management skills—especially project planning and implementation. We know that practitioners are almost always involved in change efforts, whether to fix something, improve something, or create something. Most of our training programs do not include this skill set.

Group 1 is now investigating the responses regarding communication and methods in greater detail with a 2nd round of questions.

UNT Class Project (Group 4, co-led by Susan Squires)

The Commission served as the client for Susan Squires' *Design Anthropology* course at **The University of North Texas**; this project represents part of the work of Group 4. Nine graduate students completed a research project for the Commission under Squires' direction. They included Giselle Elizondo, Gabriela Gutierrez, Elsa Irby, Michael MacNevin, Natalie Muyres, Amna Saleemi, Marieke Smits, Joseph Webster, and Mikaela Williams.

Class participants conducted 14 interviews with faculty about the successes and challenges faced when introducing practice into U.S. anthropology programs. Here is a teaser from their results. The identified some key themes tied to *successful* applied programs:

1. **Ensuring faculty commitment to application and practice.** Applied programs thrive when there is a critical mass of instructors who integrate application and practice into the curriculum. A best-case scenario is when all courses incorporate this orientation. Applied

Publicity

Presentations and workshops are important ways for improving awareness of the Commission's work. Since our last Newsletter in November, we have met with 13 anthropology organizations and societies. The most recent organizations were the Washington Association of Professional Anthropologists (Jan. 11) and the AAA Section Presidents (Jan. 20).

Contact us

If you are interested in contributing or simply in knowing more, reach out to us via email:

elizabeth.briody@gmail.com

rwnolan@purdue.edu

programs with strong Chairs committed to application and practice are the most successful. Moreover, faculty with application and practice experience can help departments transition to a focus on the entire continuum from theory to practice.

2. **Offering students experience on client-based projects, substantial methods training, and skill development.** Students appreciate courses that offer hands-on experience and opportunities to practice new skills. They learn the value of developing their professional networks and conducting research for a client. Such learning not only gives them confidence, but also enables them to engage successfully in the job market to secure employment.
3. **Networking with alumni.** Building connections with the program's alumni helps students learn about the work anthropologists do, get advice, and find internships and jobs. It also benefits alums by keeping them in touch with current students.

Articulating the Value of Anthropology

Group 7 officially launched on January 7, 2022. Practitioners routinely have to explain themselves to non-anthropologists, and they need to do this quickly and effectively if they are going to be successful. Think of people like prospective employers, community members, colleagues, reporters, your grandmother! Learning *how* to explain the value of anthropology is especially important for students and early career anthropologists.

This group is discussing the best ways of finding out what questions practitioners have been asked and helpful ways of answering them.



**NY, NJ, and CT,
mark your
calendars for
May 13, 2022!**

The first ever Career Readiness Conference, "**Building Careers**," will occur at Fordham University's Gabelli School of Business. A day consisting of workshops and plenary sessions for both students and instructors is expected to ignite interest in anthropological careers. A big thanks goes to anthropologist Timothy de Waal Malefyt at Fordham who came up with this wonderful idea.