

Department of History

Degree Program Assessment Plan

I. Goals

The major goal of our program is to give students seeking degrees in History a broad understanding of the varieties of ways of examining the past.

- Students should have the ability to read and understand primary and secondary sources, including archival documents, journal articles, monographs and textbooks.

- Students should have the ability to communicate multiple ways of interpreting the past, both in written and verbal form, to others.

- Students should have a basic understanding of the workings of historiography

- Students should be able to apply historical reasoning and knowledge of the past to other disciplines

II. Methodology

The Department of History uses several methods to assess students. A major instrument of assessment is the use of student portfolios, containing exams, short essays, and research papers from all levels of History courses. Students also include a resume and an introduction assessing their work and reflecting on their careers as history majors.

Surveys of alumnae are also chief instruments of assessment. Periodically, a survey is taken of students who majored in History. We will institute that this survey will occur every three years.

III. Process

Beginning this year, the Department of History meets in the spring semester, after student portfolios have been turned in, to analyze the assessment information collected. At the last meeting, faculty will discuss the results of their reading of student portfolios. Changes to the department's degree programs, including curriculum and scheduling of courses, are considered in light of the accumulated assessment data. Further, the assessment plan itself is discussed and, if necessary, revised at this meeting.

IV. Participation

All full-time members of the department participate in the analysis and discussion of assessment data, as well as the revision of the assessment plan. The department plans to survey all Seniors taking the Proseminar (capstone course) to enable them to participate in assessment. This survey will provide the opportunity to suggest changes to the curriculum or degree programs. As noted above, alumni as well as current students are involved in the assessment process.

V. Records

The Department of History will keep an archive of student portfolios, student surveys, any other assessment data collected, copies of all assessment reports, and copies of its assessment plan on file in the department office. Copies of the assessment plan and reports will be placed on the departmental web page in a downloadable electronic format.