

HISTORY MAJOR
Department of History
Assessment Plan for AY 2014-2015

Update 10/16/2015

Intended Outcomes Selected for Assessment in 2014-2015:

Note: The outcomes below are extended from Outcome #2: “The History Major will apply the procedures used by historians to find and document sources, collect evidence and draw conclusions in completing original research.”

Student Learning Outcomes	Means of Assessment	Criteria for Success	Results or Progress	Use of Results for Improvement
History majors are able to conduct historical research, including the ability to formulate research questions and locate historical data.	History majors will write a research paper in HIST in which they will formulate research questions or a thesis and will include a bibliography used to complete the paper. The paper will be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. graded by the course professor 2. reviewed by other department faculty using a rubric for research questions or thesis and for a bibliography for a research paper. 	80% of history majors will score at least a B on their final historical research paper in HIST 490 as evaluated by the course professor.	<i>90% of history majors who took HIST 490 in 2014-15 received a final grade of a B or higher.</i>	Given that History 490 is the capstone course for the History major, these results suggest that collectively the department is succeeding in achieving the our department outcomes.
History majors will write historiographic essays that identify and compare the historical analyses of a subject.	History majors enrolled in HIST 140 will write an essay on a historiographic dispute between two or more historians, or a historiographic essay comparing different books on the same subject or several books by the same historian, or an original essay incorporating primary and secondary materials from archival research. The essay will be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. graded by the course professor 2. reviewed by other department faculty using a rubric. 	80% of history majors will score at least a B on their historiographic essay in HIST 140 as evaluated by the course professor.	<i>50% of history majors who took HIST 140 2014-2015 received a final grade of a B or higher.</i>	The Department will continue to monitor History 140 and History 490 outcomes. If low grades persist in History 140 the department will explore content and expectations for the course.

Intended Outcomes Selected for Assessment in 2015-2016

The following outcome is extended from Outcome#1: The History Major will demonstrate an understanding of the development of human society and culture through the study of the past, specifically the history of Europe (from the Renaissance through the 20th Century) and the United States (from its beginning through the 20th Century).

Student Learning Outcomes	Means of Assessment	Criteria for Success	Results or Progress	Use of Results for Improvement
The student will identify and describe the major individuals, groups, institutions, ideas, and events that have shaped political, social, and economic developments over time.	History majors enrolled in HIST 110, 111, 120, or 121, will complete graded work that requires them to identify or describe selected individuals, groups, institutions, ideas, and events that have shaped political, social and economic developments over time.	80% of history majors will earn a B average in the four required survey courses (HIST 110, 111, 120, and 121).	<p><i>83% of history majors who took HIST 110 in 2014-15 received a final grade of a B or higher.</i></p> <p><i>73% of history majors who took HIST 111 in 2014-15 received a final grade of a B or higher.</i></p> <p><i>71% of history majors who took HIST 120 in 2014-15 received a final grade of a B or higher.</i></p> <p><i>85% of history majors who took HIST 121 in 2014-15 received a final grade of a B or higher.</i></p>	<p>The Department will enlist the members of Phi Alpha Theta, the international history honor society, to serve as tutors for the history majors experiencing difficulties in HIST 110, 111, 120 and/or 121.</p> <p>Faculty teaching the four courses will identify students (including history majors) who are experiencing difficulties early in the semester and issue Early Warning notices and offer assistance.</p> <p>Faculty teaching the four courses will identify students (including history majors) who are experiencing difficulties and suggest they take advantage of the services available through CTLE.</p>