

Assessment Cycle Plan
Academic Year 2016 – 2017

Program - Bachelor of Arts in History

College: Arts and Sciences

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Northwestern Mission. Northwestern State University is a responsive, Student-oriented institution that is committed to the creation, dissemination, and acquisition of knowledge through teaching, research, and service. The University maintains as its highest priority excellence in teaching in graduate and undergraduate programs. *Northwestern State University prepares its Students to become productive members of society and promotes economic development and improvements in the quality of life of the citizens in its region.*

College of Arts and Sciences' Mission. College of Arts and Sciences' Mission. The College of Arts & Sciences, the largest college at Northwestern State University, is a diverse community of scholars, teachers, and students, working collaboratively to acquire, create, and disseminate knowledge through transformational, high-impact experiential learning practices, research, and service. The College strives to produce graduates who are productive members of society equipped with the capability to promote economic and social development and improve the overall quality of life in the region. The College provides an unequalled undergraduate education in the social and behavioral sciences, English, communication, journalism, media arts, biological and physical sciences, and the creative and performing arts, and at the graduate level in the creative and performing arts, English, TESOL, and Homeland Security. Uniquely, the College houses the Louisiana Scholars' College (the State's designated Honors College), the Louisiana Folklife Center, and the Creole Center, demonstrating its commitment to community service, research, and preservation of Louisiana's precious resources.

Department of Criminal Justice, History, and Social Sciences. The Criminal Justice, History, and Social Sciences Department at Northwestern State University is dedicated to the development of students for roles in academic, leadership, professional, and research careers in the challenging fields of criminal justice, history, public safety, law, and public service. Utilizing transformational, high-impact experiential learning practices, research and service the department produces graduates equipped to be productive members of society and a driving force in the economic development and improvement of the overall quality of life in the region. The department delivers Bachelor of Arts degrees in Criminal Justice and History and Bachelors of Science degrees in Unified Public Safety Administration with concentrations in Law Enforcement Administration, Fire and Emergency Medical Services Administration, Emergency

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Management Administration, and Public Facilities Management. Certificate programs in Pre-Law and Paralegal Studies and Public Policy and Administration are also available in addition to a Pre-law and Paralegal Studies concentration and minor. The department also delivers a Master's of Science degree in Homeland Security, and a Post-Master's certificate in Global Security and Intelligence.

History Program Mission Statement: The students who complete the History curriculum will have developed an understanding of contemporary events and ideas as they affect the locality, region, nation, and the world. Most particularly within the democratic environment of the United States, students will be prepared to fulfill their civic obligations as citizens. Students will be prepared for entry-level positions in any number of areas including teaching in public schools, business, industry, and government. In addition they will be prepared for continued academic work in graduate programs.

Student Learning Outcomes:

SLO 1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the complexities of historical development and resulting historical interpretations.

Course Map: Tied to course syllabus objectives.

HIST 3990: Historical Methods

Measure 1.1.

Students enrolled in HIST 3990 (a required course for all history majors) must complete a 15-page research paper on a topic of their choice in either US or non-US history. The project requires an understanding and reading of primary and secondary sources. Students must demonstrate sufficient comprehension of the subject they research as well as the historiography of that subject. 75% of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or better on the research paper assignment.

Fall 2016 Data: 64.3% success rate (Grades C or higher)

Spring 2017 Data: 75% success rate

Findings: Fall 2016 target not met due to 2 students withdrawing. 100% completion with grade C or higher for remaining students. Target met for Spring 2017.

Action Plan: To better assess this measure in the future, and to facilitate normalization of data for future QEP implementation, the program will develop and deploy a rubric for the capstone research paper beginning in Fall 2017.

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SLO 2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of major historical issues and their impact upon the US and the world.

Course Map: Tied to course syllabus objectives.

HIST 1010: Early World Civilization

HIST 1020: Modern World Civilization

HIST 2010: History of the United States to 1865

HIST 2020: History of the United States since 1865

HIST 3990: Historical Methods

Measure: 2.1.

All history majors are required to take HIST 1010, 1020, 2010, and 2020, which provide an opportunity for students to acquire foundational knowledge and understanding of the major events and developments that have shaped US and world history. The program assesses foundational knowledge of major historical events through objective exams, quizzes, and graded discussions, as appropriate for the course material and as described in each course syllabus. 75% of students enrolled in each course will earn a composite grade of C or higher on the quizzes, exams, and discussions specifically related to this measure.

Fall 2016 Data:

HIST 1010: 79.2% success

HIST 1020: 73.3% success

HIST 2010: 83.1% success

HIST 2020: 84.3% success

Spring 2017 Data:

HIST 1010: 70.8% success

HIST 1020: 90.9% success

HIST 2010: 84.8% success

HIST 2020: 93.1% success

Findings: Target met except for HIST 1020, Fall 2016, and HIST 1010, Spring 2017.

Action Plan: Program faculty will monitor success rates on exams and assignments associated with this measure to discern trends. In Fall 2017, the Program will develop and implement a standardized comprehensive exam that all majors will complete in their graduating semester. This will serve as a better assessment of this measure and will facilitate a process for providing more useful guidance to instructors of courses not meeting the target.

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Measure: 2.2.

Students enrolled in HIST 3990 (a required course for all history majors) must complete a 15-page research paper on a topic of their choice in either US or non-US history. The project requires an understanding and reading of primary and secondary sources. Students must demonstrate sufficient comprehension of the subject they research as well as the historiography of that subject. 75% of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or better on the research paper.

Fall 2016 Data: 64.3% success rate (Grades C or higher)

Spring 2017 Data: 75% success rate

Findings: Fall 2016 target not met due to 2 students withdrawing. 100% completion with grade C or higher for remaining students. Target met for Spring 2017.

Action Plan: To better assess this measure in the future, and to facilitate normalization of data for future QEP implementation, the program will develop and deploy a rubric for the capstone research paper beginning in Fall 2017.

SLO 3. Students will distinguish between historical knowledge and historical understanding

Course Map: Tied to course syllabus objectives.

SST 1030: Social Sciences Seminar

HIST 3990: Historical Methods

Measure 3.1.

All history majors must take SST 1030 in the fall semester of their freshman year. Students enrolled in this course are required to distinguish between primary and secondary sources, and must complete written assignments based on their understanding of these kinds of historical texts. 75% of students enrolled will earn a grade of C on the written exam which specifically assesses this SLO.

Fall 2016 Data: 63.3% success.

Findings: Target not met due to non-completion.

Action Plan: The instructor for this course will monitor students' progress more closely to ensure students are aware of mandatory deadlines and to identify and address

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specific issues that may be hindering ability to complete the assignment.

Measure 3.2

Students enrolled in HIST 3990 (a required course for all history majors) must complete a 15-page research paper on a topic of their choice in either US or non-US history. The project requires an understanding and reading of primary and secondary sources. Students must demonstrate sufficient comprehension of the subject they research as well as the historiography of that subject. 75% of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or better on the research paper.

Fall 2016 Data: 64.3% success rate (Grades C or higher)

Spring 2017 Data: 75% success rate

Findings: Fall 2016 target not met due to 2 students withdrawing. 100% completion with grade C or higher for remaining students. Target met for Spring 2017.

Action Plan: To better assess this measure in the future, and to facilitate normalization of data for future QEP implementation, the program will develop and deploy a rubric for the capstone research paper beginning in Fall 2017.

SLO 4. Select and apply appropriate research methods and analytical skills

Course Map: Tied to course syllabus objectives.

SST 1030: Social Sciences Seminar

HIST 3990: Historical Methods

Measure 4.1.

All history majors must take SST 1030 in the fall semester of their freshman year. Students enrolled in this course are required to distinguish between primary and secondary sources, and must complete an archival assignment based on their understanding of these kinds of historical texts. 75% of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or better on the assignment.

Data for Fall 2016: 68%

Findings: Target not met due to non-completion

Action Plan: The instructor for this course will monitor students' progress more closely to ensure students are aware of mandatory deadlines and to identify and address

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specific issues that may be hindering ability to complete the assignment. The instructor will also create a rubric for this assignment to facilitate more effective assessment.

Measure 4.2

Students enrolled in HIST 3990 (a required course for all history majors) must complete a 15-page research paper on a topic of their choice in either US or non-US history. The project requires an understanding and reading of primary and secondary sources. Students must demonstrate sufficient comprehension of the subject they research as well as the historiography of that subject. 75% of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or better on the research paper.

Fall 2016 Data: 64.3% success rate (Grades C or higher)

Spring 2017 Data: 75% success rate

Findings: Fall 2016 target not met due to 2 students withdrawing. 100% completion with grade C or higher for remaining students. Target met for Spring 2017.

Action Plan: To better assess this measure in the future, and to facilitate normalization of data for future QEP implementation, the program will develop and deploy a rubric for the capstone research paper beginning in Fall 2017.

SLO 5. Students will demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills.

Course Map: Tied to course syllabus objectives.

SST 1030: Social Sciences Seminar

HIST 3990: Historical Methods

Measure 5.1.

Students enrolled in SST 1030 must complete a Thesis and Citation assignment that directly assesses this SLO. 75% of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or higher on the assignment

Data for Fall 2016: 46.8% success rate

Findings: Target not met due to non-completion.

Action Plan: The instructor for this course will monitor students' progress more closely to ensure students are aware of mandatory deadlines and to identify and address specific issues that may be hindering ability to complete the assignment. The instructor

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will also create a rubric for this assignment to facilitate more effective assessment.

Measure 5.2.

Students enrolled in HIST 3990 (a required course for all history majors) must complete a 15-page research paper on a topic of their choice in either US or non-US history. The project requires an understanding and reading of primary and secondary sources. Students must demonstrate sufficient comprehension of the subject they research as well as the historiography of that subject. 75% of students enrolled will earn a grade of C or better on the research paper.

Fall 2016 Data: 64.3% success rate (Grades C or higher)

Spring 2017 Data: 75% success rate

Findings: Fall 2016 target not met due to 2 students withdrawing. 100% completion with grade C or higher for remaining students. Target met for Spring 2017.

Action Plan: To better assess this measure in the future, and to facilitate normalization of data for future QEP implementation, the program will develop and deploy a rubric for the capstone research paper beginning in Fall 2017.

Summary:

Based on 2016-17 data, key findings include the recognition that students in the history program overall had a high rate of success based on completion of the designated coursework and assignments. This is especially true for the mandatory research paper in HIST 3990, the program's capstone experience which connects all five student learning outcomes. The program's lowest success rates were associated with the discrete assignments in SST 1030, the introductory and foundational course for all history majors. These measures failed to meet the targets due to student non-completion, particularly by freshman or first-year online students. To increase completion rates, the instructor will monitor student progress more closely and engage in more proactive communication to address any obstacles and difficulties students may be facing. Additionally, the program will begin generating and deploying rubrics for the targeted assignments in the designated courses for more precise and effective assessment. The program will also institute a new comprehensive examination to generate more useful data about the success of introductory and advanced coursework.