

History BA/BS

Goal: Enhancing Alumni Relations and Outreach

Goal Description:

The Department of History will seek to demonstrate its commitment to community engagement and lifelong learning by formalizing outreach to alumni.

Providing Department: History BA/BS

Progress: Ongoing

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Performance Objective: Enhancing Alumni Relations and Outreach

Performance Objective Description:

The Department of History will aim to track the career outcomes and professional successes of its recent alumni by developing and administering an alumni survey. This survey shall assist the unit in identifying strengths and weaknesses of the program, and shall aid departmental leadership in better understanding the demographics of our majors and minors.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

KPI #1: Enhancing Alumni Relations and Outreach

KPI Description:

The Department shall consider it a success if it develops, publishes, and distributes among its recent alumni an e-newsletter.

Results Description:

The Department developed, published, and distributed to recent alumni an e-newsletter.

Attached Files

 [NEWSLETTER-2.pdf](#)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Enhancing Alumni Relations and Outreach Action Item

Action Description:

The department shall continue to produce an e-newsletter for its alumni. The department shall also seek to develop an annual alumni lecture in an effort to build scholarly community and highlight student success.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

KPI #2: Enhancing Alumni Relations and Outreach

KPI Description:

The Department shall consider it a success if, in the Spring 2021 semester, it (1) establishes an alumni relations committee; (2) develops a survey to be deployed among its recent graduates; and (3) collects and analyzes data about job placement, advanced degrees, and degree outcomes.

Results Description:

While the department did not develop an alumni survey, it did develop and deploy among current students a survey intended to analyze intended career and professional outcomes. The results of that survey are attached. The department shall use this information as it reconsiders its undergraduate curriculum and programming in the fall.

Attached Files

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Enhancing Alumni Relations and Outreach Action Item

Action Description:

The department shall work to develop and deploy a survey of recent graduates, so as to collect more information about career and professional outcomes.

Goal: Historical Literacy

Goal Description:

The BA/BS in History at SHSU prepares students to learn about and critically analyze historical events; to weigh and interpret conflicting evidence; to assess change over time; to evaluate the complexities and contingencies of the past; and to gain an appreciation of the texture and diversity of the human experience. Students who complete the BA/BS degree should be able to make and sustain a historical argument in professional prose; to weigh the merits of an argument; and to pose good questions both about the past and their own particular moment. Students with the BA/BS degree should be prepared for graduate education in history.

Providing Department: History BA/BS

Progress: Ongoing

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Learning Objective: Acquisition of Historical Thinking Skills

Learning Objective Description:

Upon completion of the core curriculum courses (HIST 1301 and HIST 1302, HIST 2311 and HIST 2312), undergraduate History majors should be able to demonstrate their mastery of basic historical thinking skills by: (1) evaluating change over time; (2) establishing and/or situating events in historical context; (3) distinguishing between primary and secondary sources; and (4) describing the complexities and contingencies of the past.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicator, Criterion, and Findings: Acquisition of Historical Thinking Skills

Indicator Description:

The Department of History's Undergraduate Affairs Committee shall administer pre- and post-tests to students enrolled in its core curriculum courses: HIST 1301 and HIST 1302, HIST 2311 and HIST 2312. These examinations were developed by the Department's Undergraduate Affairs Committee to measure the acquisition of historical thinking skills and student growth over the course of a semester.

Criterion Description:

The Department of History shall administer the attached pre- and post-tests to students enrolled in its core curriculum courses. These exams will be scored by members of the Undergraduate Affairs Committee. The results of the exams shall be analyzed by the committee and reported to the departmental faculty for review and discussion.

Attached Files

 [2312%20Pre-Test.pdf](#)

 [1301%20Pre-Test.pdf](#)

 [1301%20Post-Test.pdf](#)

 [1302%20Post-Test.pdf](#)

 [2311%20Post-Test.pdf](#)

 [2312%20Post-Test.pdf](#)

 [1302%20Pre-Test.pdf](#)

 [2311%20Pre-Test.pdf](#)

Findings Description:

After discussion, the department opted not to deploy this instrument and therefore did not collect data from its students in HIST 1301, HIST 1302, HIST 2311, and HIST 2312. In the fall, the department shall engage in a new discussion about how best to measure student success toward meeting standard learning objectives.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Acquisition of Historical Thinking Skills Action Item

Action Description:

The department shall develop and deploy a new instrument to evaluate the acquisition of historical thinking skills in core curriculum instruction.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Learning Objective: Constructing a Historical Argument

Learning Objective Description:

Prior to graduation, students will demonstrate the ability to make and sustain a historical argument rooted in their own, original analysis of primary and secondary sources.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicator, Criterion, and Findings: Constructing a Historical Argument

Indicator Description:

All undergraduate students are required to take HIST 4399: History Senior Seminar. In this capstone course, typically completed in the penultimate or final semester, students conduct historical research and produce an extensive research paper using primary and secondary sources. Once per year, the Department of History's Undergraduate Affairs Committee shall collect and evaluate a randomized sample of the writing artifacts produced across all sections of HIST 4399.

Criterion Description:

The department shall assess the thesis, evidence, organization, and mechanics of a randomized sample of writing artifacts produced in the capstone seminar course. The department will consider it a success if all writing artifacts scored by the Undergraduate Affairs Committee obtain a minimum score of "meets expectations" on the attached rubric.

Attached Files

 [HIST 4399 Writing Artifact Evaluation Rubric.pdf](#)

Findings Description:

The department successfully met this goal, with the writing artifacts produced in HIST 4399 meeting expectations.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Constructing a Historical Argument Action Item

Action Description:

The department shall continue to collect randomized samples of writing artifacts produced in HIST 4399: History Senior Seminar.

Goal: Promoting the History Major

Goal Description:

The Department of History will continue to promote the study of history and the value of historical literacy at SHSU.

Providing Department: History BA/BS

Progress: Ongoing

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Performance Objective: Promoting History Major

Performance Objective Description:

The Department of History will continue to increase the number of undergraduate majors and minors.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

KPI #1: Promoting the History Major

KPI Description:

The Department of History shall attempt to build community among current students and alumni and promote its programs. The department shall consider it a success if it (1) develops an annual faculty newsletter; (2) hosts a graduate student recruitment event, and (3) develops a new promotional video for its undergraduate program.

Results Description:

The Department successfully met the objective by publishing a faculty newsletter, hosting a graduate recruitment event through Phi Alpha Theta, and developing new promotional videos for the undergraduate program and MA program. The promotional video highlighted the diversity of career outcomes among recent majors and is available on the departmental website.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Promoting the History Major Action Item

Action Description:

The department shall work with Marketing and Communications to develop a new marketing campaign.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

KPI #2: Promoting the History Major

KPI Description:

The Department of History shall seek to exploit its unusual B.S. degree as a recruiting tool. To fully realize the recruiting potential of this degree program, the department shall seek to build a program in the history of medicine. The department shall conduct a national search for a Visiting Assistant Professor in the History of Medicine. The department will consider it a success if it makes a hire in the History of Medicine.

Results Description:

The department successfully completed a search for a Visiting Assistant Professor in the History of Medicine (Dr. Scottie Hale Buehler) and launched a Spring Medical Humanities series. A flier for the series is attached.

Attached Files

 [Medical Event Flyer FInal.pdf](#)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Promoting the History Major Action Item

Action Description:

The department shall develop new promotional materials to aid the advising center at SHSU and regional two-year institutions in highlighting the value of a History degree.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

Closing Summary

After a year of disruptions occasioned by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the department shall seek to better measure student learning outcomes and the effectiveness of its classroom instruction. A newly re-organized Assessment and Curriculum Committee shall deploy pre-tests and post-tests of historical thinking skills in core curriculum classes; the committee shall make a report and recommendations to the departmental faculty based on its findings. The committee shall also collect, score, and evaluate a randomized sample of writing artifacts from the undergraduate capstone seminar.

The department will also seek to enhance alumni relations, which will serve two goals: (1) building a stronger sense of intellectual community within the department, and (2) highlighting the diversity of career options and outcomes available to history majors. To better understand its alumni, the department shall consider developing a survey of recent graduates. This survey shall seek to measure career outcomes and will inform strategic planning. The department shall also host recent alumni in its first ever "History @ WORK" event.

Finally, the department shall seek to promote the continued growth of the history major by building excitement around a potential new concentration in the History of Medicine. This concentration would support the department's unique B.S. in History degree. The department shall organize a Fall Medical Humanities Lecture to support the curricular goals of the newly-hired Visiting Assistant Professor in the History of Medicine.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

This year, the department failed to deploy pre-tests and post-tests in its core curriculum courses. Moving forward, the department shall seek to better measure student learning outcomes and the effectiveness of its classroom instruction. In particular, the department will reconsider how best to acquire data about the acquisition of historical thinking skills.

The department did work on building alumni relations. The department hosted a panel of alumni for its first ever alumni career event. This event highlighted the diversity of career and professional outcomes among recent graduates. The department also published and distributed via e-mail a newsletter for recent alumni and parents.

The department worked on growing the number of history majors. It spent considerable energy this year on building out a program in the Medical Humanities, in an effort to exploit the recruiting potential of its unique B.S. in History degree. In addition to preparing an NEH Grant proposal, our newly hired Visiting Assistant Professor in the History of Medicine launched a Spring Medical Humanities Series that brought four leading scholars to campus (virtually and in-person).

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

The department shall seek to better measure student learning outcomes and the effectiveness of its classroom instruction. Faculty will design new instruments to assess the acquisition of historical thinking skills in core curriculum classes.

The department will also seek to further enhance alumni relations. The program shall develop and deploy an alumni survey to better understand the career and professional outcomes of its graduates.

Finally, the department shall work on recruiting new history majors and minors. In support of these efforts, the department will explore updates to the undergraduate curriculum; work with Marketing and Communications on new marketing materials; consider the viability of micro credentials in public and/or

military history; and build connections with local high schools and two-year colleges.