

American Studies Minor

Establish initial assessment standards

Goal Description:

Coordinator will work with interdisciplinary faculty to establish program goals related to the following:

Critical Thinking

Student understanding of diverse American Experiences.

Student understanding of the intersection of various disciplines in American Studies

Providing Department: American Studies Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

To Engage Actively In Research And Publication

Performance Objective Description:

The number of peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, and grant proposals by the Department's tenured and tenure-track faculty will serve as indicators of active research agendas.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Number And Quality Of Publications

KPI Description:

The number of faculty publications will be noted; however, it is important for the faculty and administrators to understand that quality is much more important than quantity. Quality is defined as publication in peer-reviewed print journals or presentation to peer-reviewed conferences. The expectation is the publication of one peer-reviewed article (or equivalent) per faculty member per year.

Target Description:

Faculty will publish one peer-reviewed article (or equivalent) per faculty member per year.

Results Description:

The average number of publications for the department met the target; however, not all faculty members published at least one article.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Number and Quality of Publications

Action Description:

Faculty will publish in peer-reviewed journals in their respective fields. Faculty are encouraged to publish at least one article per calendar year.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Research Agenda

KPI Description:

The number of peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, and grant proposals by the Department's tenured and tenure-track faculty will serve as indicators of active research agendas. Presenting a paper at a meeting of a professional association and/or publication of one article will certify research productivity. For 2023-24, we expect that research productivity will increase when compared to previous year.

Target Description:

The department will see an increase in all research activity (grants, presentations, publications).

Results Description:

The department did not see an increase in research activity; however, there was not a significant fall off. The research this assessment year is consistent with previous years.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Research Agenda

Action Description:

Each tenure and tenure-track faculty member will be encouraged to publish in, teach, and promote their respective research agenda(s). The department will aid in teaching through assigned courses and general promotion through colloquia through the academic year.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

To Provide Professional Service

Performance Objective Description:

English faculty will take part in service activities at local, state, regional, national, and/or international levels.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Professional Service Activities

KPI Description:

The number of professional service activities--local, state, regional, national, and/or international--by the Department's tenure-track faculty will indicate engagement in professional service.

Target Description:

Faculty will engage in multiple service activities appropriate for rank.

Results Description:

Over 75% of the faculty met expectations/target for service activities.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Professional Service Activities

Action Description:

Each tenured, tenure-track faculty, and lecturers will perform professional service duties appropriate to their rank.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

To Teach Effectively

Performance Objective Description:

The Department's faculty will maintain a level of instruction at or above the average for all departments at SHSU.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Demonstration Of Teaching Effectiveness

KPI Description:

Successful teaching will be demonstrated by faculty performance on the Individual Development and Educational Assessment (IDEA) Class Evaluation System. The IDEA survey is a nationally-normed, university-adopted evaluation instrument which measures student perception of instructor teaching. The faculty of the Department of English will average at least 4.2 (the university's average) on the IDEA student evaluations of teaching. Part of quality instruction is also adherence to stringent student evaluation; courses need to be interesting yet not too easy.

Target Description:

The faculty of the Department of English will average at least 4.2 (the university's average) on the IDEA student evaluations of teaching.

Results Description:

The department IDEA average exceeded 4.2.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Demonstrating Of Teaching Effectiveness

Action Description:

Peer faculty will review classroom management of at least two colleagues each AY. Letters discussing strengths as well as areas that need work will be shared with respective faculty members.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Onboarding Contingent Faculty

Action Description:

Contingent faculty will be apprised of their duties to include teaching and service appropriate to their rank.

New Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

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

Closing Summary

- 1) Appoint a new coordinator for the American Studies minor.
- 2) Establish firm assessment indicators and tools for assessment.
- 3) Continue to develop recruiting strategies for the minor.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

We appointed a new coordinator for the American Studies minor. We did not establish firm assessment indicators and tools for assessment nor did we Continue to develop recruiting strategies for the minor.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

The program has been in relative stasis this year. No assessment tools or indicators have been created, and the committee needs to be reconfigured to take more into account the interdisciplinary aspect of this minor. Once the committee has been created then the following may take place:

- Reconsider the minors in terms of the societal changes since their initial creation.
- Review the course offerings, adding and deleting as appropriate.
- Consult with faculty from across the college to make sure that subject matter experts are involved with the revisioning.
- Plan marketing of the minors to coincide with the revision.
- Schedule implementation of the revised programs for Fall 2025.