

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

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 seek to enhance its communications with recent alumni, in an effort to (1) showcase its scholarly profile and (2) build connections with community stakeholders who might supply internships, career opportunities, or professional connections for current students.

Target 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 is in the process of appointing a newsletter committee to ensure the distribution of both print and digital newsletters. This newsletter will include crucial information about the developmental programs, notable achievements of both faculty and students, and alumni news. The e-newsletter version will be distributed to recent alumni.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Enhancing Alumni Relations and Outreach Action Item

Action 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 #2: Enhancing Alumni Relations and Outreach

KPI Description:

The Department shall, through a anonymous survey, seek to better understand the career outcomes of recent alumni.

Target Description:

The Department shall consider it a success if it (1) develops a survey to be deployed among its recent graduates; and (2) collects and analyzes data about job placement, advanced degrees, and degree outcomes.

Results Description:

In an ongoing goal and initiative to enhance alumni relations, the department is working with the Office of Alumni Relations to develop the instrument. The initiatives include collecting and analyzing data about job placements, degree outcomes, and other metrics to understand the careers and outcomes of recent alumni.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Enhancing Alumni Relations and Outreach Action Item

Action Description:

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

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

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:

The pre- and post-tests were not scored by the undergraduate affairs committee, and therefore the results of the exams were not analyzed. Faculty have been working with Dr. Benjamin Mitchell-Yellin in the Provost's Office to address the high DFQ rates in HIST 1301 and HIST 1302; these conversations have taken the place of pre- and post-test review and discussion in Spring and Fall 2024. The pre- and post-test will be administered in Fall 2024 for analysis by the department.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Acquisition of Historical Thinking Skills Action Item

Action Description:

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

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 undergraduate affairs committee collected but did not score a randomized sample of writing artifacts from HIST 4399. The departmental chair will work to ensure that the committee follows through and completes this work in Fall 2024, using the attached evaluation instruments.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Constructing a Historical Argument Action Item

Action 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 department rubric.

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

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.

Target Description:

The department shall consider it a success if it (1) develops an annual faculty newsletter; (2) hosts a student recruitment event, and (3) develops a new promotional video for its undergraduate program

Results Description:

The department is in the process of appointing a newsletter committee to ensure the distribution of both print and digital newsletters. This newsletter will include departmental programs and notable achievements from both faculty and students, as well as alumni news. In an ongoing effort to promote our vibrant undergraduate and graduate programs, the department has developed a promotional video.

Additionally, we have hosted monthly student recruitment events called "Pop Into History," which are designed to attract students interested in history programs. These events provide a platform for prospective students to connect with history faculty and learn more about our program and course offerings. This is an ongoing goal and initiative to enhance engagement and visibility of our department.

Attached Files

 [Supporting documents](#)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Promoting the History Major Action Item

Action Description:

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

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.

Target Description:

The department will consider it a success if it makes a tenure-track hire in the History of Medicine.

Results Description:

The department conducted a nationwide search for a tenure-track position in the history of medicine, culminating successfully with the appointment of Dr. Scottie Buehler. Dr. Buehler has been instrumental in developing the Medical Humanities minor, hosted by the History Department, with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This new program, along with the B.S. degree, has served as a valuable recruiting tool. In Fall 2023, The Medical Humanities program awarded two student prizes and received proposals for creating short curriculum units on medical humanities topics for class use. Dr. Buehler and other faculty members are developing the core curriculum for the minor and are launching new courses such as Narrative Medicine, Feminist Bioethics, and Disability in Art. The program committee has curated a library of medical and health-related objects for classroom use and have begun planning a conference, including student panels, for fall 2025. the program The Medical Humanities Program has invited notable scholars in the field of medical history to present to our students and community members to broaden their understanding of the field.

Attached Files

 [Supporting documents](#)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Promoting the History Major Action Item

Action Description:

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

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

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

Closing Summary

The Department of History shall seek to better serve its undergraduate students in the upcoming academic year. First, it shall implement overdue updates to its degree plans. The new degree plans shall require a course in historical methodology, so as to better prepare students for upper-division coursework. The new degree plans shall also structure elective choices, so as to ensure geographic and chronological breadth. Students will also benefit from clearly articulated learning objectives at the 1000-, 2000-, and 3000-levels.

Second, the department shall further develop its new Public History Internship program, which launched in Summer 2023. The department shall seek to increase the number of students engaged in this program. Alongside this effort, the department will promote oral history as a tool for academic community engagement. The department shall develop a physical space where oral history interviews can be recorded.

Third, the department will continue to build intellectual community through its sponsorship of the Medical Humanities minor. With a newly-hired tenure-track professor in place to direct the program--and a NEH grant to support its development--we shall seek to recruit and retain new students while building interdisciplinary connections.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

The department was in the process of appointing a newsletter committee to ensure the distribution of both print and digital newsletters. This newsletter will include crucial information about the developmental programs, notable achievements of both faculty and students, and alumni news. The e-newsletter version will be distributed to recent alumni. Ongoing.

The department built intellectual community through its sponsorship of the Medical Humanities minor.

This program, along with the B.S. degree also served as a valuable recruiting tool. The Medical Humanities program awarded two student prizes and received proposals for creating short curriculum units on medical humanities topics for class use. Dr. Buehler and other faculty members developed the core curriculum for the minor and are launching new courses such as Narrative Medicine, Feminist Bioethics, and Disability in Art. The program committee has curated a library of medical and health-related objects for classroom use and have begun planning a conference, including student panels, for fall 2025. the program The Medical Humanities Program has [invited notable scholars in the field of medical history](#) to present to our students and community members to broaden their understanding of the field.

In an ongoing effort to promote our vibrant undergraduate and graduate programs, the department has developed a promotional video. The department hosted monthly student recruitment events called "Pop Into History," designed to attract students interested in history classes. These events provided a platform for prospective students to connect with history faculty and learn more about our program and course offerings. This is an ongoing goal and initiative to enhance engagement and visibility of our department.

In an ongoing goal and initiative to enhance alumni relations, the department has been working with the Office of Alumni Relations to develop the instrument. The initiatives included collecting and analyzing data about job placements, degree outcomes, and other metrics to understand the careers and outcomes of recent alumni.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

The Department will consider it a success if it develops, publishes, and distributes among its recent alumni an e-newsletter. The Department of History shall attempt to build community among current students and alumni and promote its programs. The Department shall, through a anonymous survey, seek to better understand the career outcomes of recent alumni. 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.