

History MA

Advanced Knowledge And Skills In History

Goal Description:

Successful study of history increases knowledge of human affairs but also skills in written/oral communication, logic, and critical thinking. Such outcomes improve students' performance in their present employment, continued advanced studies toward other degrees, or moves into other historical fields, such as teaching, public history, or writing.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Research And Analysis

Learning Objective Description:

M. A. History students will demonstrate competence in applying research methodologies; qualitative and quantitative analysis; literature review; and use of traditional and digital resources.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Comprehensive Exams

Indicator Description:

All M.A. History graduates will demonstrate depth and breadth of knowledge by successfully completing written and oral exams in three field areas. This will be assessed by written oral examinations.

A panel of at least three graduate faculty will assess the quality of the written examinations to determine student mastery of the major historical themes and historiography within each of the three field areas. Students failing to demonstrate the required level of content mastery will be allowed, after consultation with the graduate committee and history chair, to retake the written exams. A second failure will result in termination from the program. Students successfully completing the written examinations will then take an oral examination before a panel of three graduate faculty members who will assess student mastery of the history and historiography in each of the three field areas. Students must pass or pass with distinction each content area. Students who fail to demonstrate sufficient competency in any of the three field areas will be allowed, after consultation with the examination committee and the departmental chair, to retake that portion of the oral examination that was not satisfactorily completed. A second failure will result in termination from the program.

In 2013-14, the department developed a common assessment document for each examining professor in the comprehensives. This document is attached.

Criterion Description:

All M.A. graduates will achieve passing or passing with distinction ratings on a written and an oral examination covering three content areas. The department will direct special attention to evaluating comprehensive exam preparation and performance among on-line students.

Findings Description:

Students took 44 comprehensive exams in 2016-17, passing 41 times. Of the three failures, one was from a predominantly on-campus student and two from predominantly online students.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Comprehensive Exams Action

Action Description:

The Department of History will cease to use this assessment method/matrix and will streamline/reform its graduate program to fit its changing student profile.

Enhancing Student Experience

Goal Description:

M.A. students will regard the graduate program in History as stimulating, rewarding, and useful.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Student Satisfaction And Usefulness Of The Degree

Performance Objective Description:

M.A. students will be satisfied with their program and have confidence in the usefulness of their degree.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

End-of-program Student Views

KPI Description:

M.A. students will demonstrate satisfaction in the program and the usefulness of the degree as they exit the program, as determined by an interview scaled to a common form developed by the department.

Results Description:

In this qualitative interview of ten questions, the results were positive. The instrument is attached.

Attached Files

[sample](#)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Student Views Action

Action Description:

The Department of History will cease to use this assessment method/matrix and will streamline/reform its graduate program to fit its changing student profile.

Gaining Skills In The Digital Humanities

Goal Description:

Modern-day historians must be prepared to work and publish in the digital environment. Historians assess and present evidence, and the body of evidence that is digital has grown recently by an enormous proportion. Therefore, we must, as disseminators of the historian's craft, see to it that our students are more than literate in digital history.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Teaching Skills

Learning Objective Description:

M. A. students indicating career interests in teaching and other positions emphasizing digital content will demonstrate enhanced abilities in this area.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Teaching Skills Preparation

Indicator Description:

Creation of a successfully faculty-reviewed historical website made available for the internet public will demonstrate successful digital historical skills.

Criterion Description:

History faculty will run seminar classes whose purpose is to populate a major historical website and smartphone app with appropriate graduate-level historical literature and resources. The MA students will prepare and deliver content for the site and app in concert with the other course requirements. The instructor will assess these products by means of an assessment document and either judge them acceptable or lead the student through a remediation/editorial process. The Graduate Committee will then review all the apps and all the assessments of the apps and report on the progress of the project.

100% student success will achieve this indicator.

Findings Description:

The student work for this public history website is being completed in the summer term of 2017.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Teaching Skills Action

Action Description:

The Department of History will cease to use this assessment method/matrix and will streamline/reform its graduate program to fit its changing student profile.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

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

1. We shall review and probably reform our comprehensive exam process.
2. We shall develop a mechanism of assessing if we should move beyond our admissions cap.
3. We shall strive to increase our collection of information about post-graduate careers.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

2016-17 was a transitional year in the Department of History. The Department now has a new Chair, Associate Chair, and Graduate Director. The Department did not accomplish any of the stated goals in the previous PCI. The Department has spent the last year working to create a new system

of committees and processes for governance and assessment.

2016-2017 Plan for Continuous Improvement

Closing Summary:

1. The Department shall come up with a list of attributes that we believe defines what the the History MA program should be delivering to our students.

2. The Department shall come up with a means of accessing our progress towards delivering these attributes to our students.