

Assessment Plan

Western Michigan University

History

Outcome: 1.0 Critical Analysis

Students will demonstrate their ability to critically read, analyze, interpret, compare, and evaluate original documents and artifacts and secondary, interpretive materials relevant to the discipline of history.

Track: BA History
 BA History Education
 BA Public History

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Questions 1, 2, and 3 in the Professional Proficiency Essay administered in the capstone course for each of the three history majors. Students in the three history majors will answer an essay question suitable to their professional needs. Assessment Method Category: Course-Embedded Measure Related Documents: Hist Example Proficiency Essay Question.doc History Essay Assessment Rubric.doc	Passing scores on the approved rubric for the designated questions.		Yes

Outcome: 1.1 Critical Analysis (Graduate)

Students will demonstrate their ability to critically read, analyze, interpret, compare, and evaluate original documents and artifacts and secondary, interpretive materials relevant to the discipline of history.

Track: MA History
 Ph.D. History

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Comprehensive exams at MA and doctoral level. At the MA, the exam emphasizes coursework. At the doctoral level, the exam covers the student's major field, minor field and in some instances, the outside field Assessment Method Category: Exam-Comprehensive	The MA or PhD rubric is used to assess results of the comprehensive exams.		Yes
Thesis (MA) or Dissertation (Doctorate) Assessment Method Category: Thesis	Passing rating by graduate committee		Yes

Outcome: 2.0 Effective communication

Students will demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively information, ideas, and interpretations relevant to the discipline of history in written, oral, and visual forms.

Track: BA History
 BA History Education
 BA Public History

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Questions 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the Professional Proficiency Essay administered in the capstone course for each of the three history majors. Students in the three history majors will answer an essay question suitable to their professional needs. Assessment Method Category:	Passing scores on the approved rubric for the designated questions.		Yes

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Course-Embedded Measure			
Related Documents:			
Hist Example Proficiency Essay Question.doc			
History Essay Assessment Rubric.doc			

Outcome: 2.1 Effective communication (Graduate)

Students will demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively information, ideas, and interpretations relevant to the discipline of history in written, oral, and visual forms.

Track: MA History
Ph.D. History

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Comprehensive exams at MA and doctoral level. At the MA, the exam emphasizes coursework. At the doctoral level, the exam covers the student's major field, minor field and in some instances, the outside field Assessment Method Category: Exam-Comprehensive	The MA or PhD rubric is used to assess results of the comprehensive exams.		Yes
Thesis (MA) or Dissertation (Doctorate) Assessment Method Category: Thesis	Passing rating by graduate committee		Yes

Outcome: 3.0 Understanding History as a Discipline

Students will demonstrate a steady development in their understanding of history as a discipline, and in their knowledge of particular content areas of historical study, including the development of research skills and historiographic knowledge.

Track: BA History
BA History Education
BA Public History

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Michigan Test for Teacher Certification for undergraduate teacher education candidates Assessment Method Category: Exam-Licensure	Passing score as set by state		Yes

Outcome: 3.1 Understanding History as a Discipline (Graduate)

Students will demonstrate a steady development in their understanding of history as a discipline, and in their knowledge of particular content areas of historical study, including the development of research skills and historiographic knowledge.

Track: MA History
Ph.D. History

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Comprehensive exams at MA and doctoral level. At the MA, the exam emphasizes coursework. At the doctoral level, the exam covers the student's major field, minor field and in some instances, the outside field Assessment Method Category: Exam-Comprehensive	The MA or PhD rubric is used to assess results of the comprehensive exams.		Yes

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Thesis (MA) or Dissertation (Doctorate) Assessment Method Category: Thesis	Passing rating by graduate committee		Yes

Outcome: 4.0 Understanding of Professional Demands

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the professional demands of their particular course of study within the discipline of history (approved by faculty January 2004)

Track: BA History
BA History Education
BA Public History

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Question 4 in the Professional Proficiency Essay administered in the capstone course for each of the three history majors. Students in the three history majors will answer an essay question suitable to their professional needs. Assessment Method Category: Course-Embedded Measure	Passing scores on the approved rubric for the designated questions.		Yes
Entry-Exit Survey Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student Related Documents: Student Information Survey.doc	Students will be required to respond to a Student Information/Advising File Survey as a course assignment in History 190, a required course that students take at the beginning of their work as a history major. Students will make a follow-up response to the Survey through the Department of History Advising Office during their final audit		Yes

Outcome: 4.1 Understanding of Professional Demands (Graduate)

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the professional demands of their particular course of study within the discipline of history (approved by faculty January 2004)

Track: MA History
Ph.D. History

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Graduate Student Activities Report Assessment Method Category: Departmental Committee Review	Committee ratings		Yes