

Outcomes Assessment Report Public Affairs: Concentration in History

M.A. Public Affairs, Concentration in History

Report Year: 2015-2016

New Mexico Highlands University: Mission Statement (Adopted as part of new Strategic Plan, 2016)

New Mexico Highlands University is a public comprehensive university serving our local and global communities. Our mission is to provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to attain an exceptional education by fostering creativity, critical thinking and research in the liberal arts, sciences, and professions within a diverse community.

Mission of the Public Affairs Program

The Master of Arts in Public Affairs is an interdisciplinary program in the Social Sciences that provides academic training for careers in public and private organizations, both nationally and internationally. The multidisciplinary core curriculum includes courses in political theory, social theory and historical thought, human culture and economic theory. These courses foster a comprehensive understanding of the social and cultural environment or public and private organizational policy design and implementation. The program prepares students for professional positions in managerial and leadership roles in government agencies, consulting firms, human services, public-interest organizations and businesses significantly affected by public policies, as well as training them for doctoral studies.

Goals of the Public Affairs Program, History Concentration.

It is our goal to train students for careers in teaching plus various kinds of professional employment. Professional applications of history include careers in public affairs, business, and the private sector where research, communication, and other liberal arts skills are required and appreciated. In addition, the program seeks to prepare students for advanced graduate programs in history and the law.

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose Linkage & Institutional Mission Reference:

The University's commitment to programs focusing on a diverse campus community, especially the rich heritage of regional traditions and cultures.

College/University Goals Supported:

The university aspires to develop broadly literate citizens and leaders, educated in analytical and critical thought and the appreciation of the arts and sciences. University's commitment to programs focusing on a diverse campus community, especially the rich heritage of regional traditions and cultures.

Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes:

- 1) Students exhibit an understanding and appreciation of a multidisciplinary approach in relation to the work they eventually do and the social environments in which they live.
- 2) Students will demonstrate understanding and appreciation of the nature of history as a discipline, and the relationship between historiography and historical research.
- 3) Students will develop skills in reading, research, writing, critical and reflective thought, and communication. The acquisition of these skills will prepare graduates of the program for teaching in secondary schools and community colleges, for research-oriented employment in non-academic and applied settings, and for the additional education necessary to earn a PhD or other additional advanced degree.
- 4) Students will master the scholarly literature in their chosen field of concentration (History)

Student Learning Outcome 1:

Students exhibit an understanding and appreciation of a multidisciplinary approach to graduate education.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 1:

- Mastery of content knowledge and skills
- Effective communication skills
- Critical and reflective thinking skills

1st Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:

Students will successfully complete the program's Interdisciplinary Core requirements earning a B or above in the non-history courses:

- **ANTH 651 – Seminar: Concepts of Human Culture (3)**
- **POLS 563 -- Political Economy (3)**
- **POLS 654 -- Seminar: The State (3)**
- **SOC 638 -- Advanced Classical Social Theories (3)**

2nd Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:

Students fill out surveys (see attachment 2) at or after their comprehensive exam or defense, including questions asking them to comment on the program's impact on their research, writing, and analytical skills. Criteria for success, majority rating program as excellent or good in all three areas.

Summary of Data:

1)

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	1	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	1	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: not useful given small cohort	100

2)

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	1	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	1
Total Number of Students Assessed:	1	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: not useful given small cohort	100

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1:

With so little data, there are few concrete conclusions to be reached. The most obvious point is that the program needs to recruit more students in order to prosper. There are a number of new students, so next year's report should provide additional data for assessment.

Student Learning Outcome 2:

Students will demonstrate understanding and appreciation of the nature of history as a discipline, and the relationship between historiography and historical research.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 2:

- Mastery of content knowledge and skills
- Effective communication skills
- Critical and reflective thinking skills

Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:

- 1) Students will achieve a grade of A or B in Hist/Poli Sci 615: Contemporary Historical Thought. Criterion for success, 75% of students earning A or B.
- 2) The program's Graduate Coordinator will fill out a portfolio checklist (attachment 1) evaluating a sample of each graduating student's written work, including his or her thesis, professional paper(s), or comprehensive exam. Criteria for success, rating of good or

excellent on Checklist Item N° 2 (understanding of history, particularly the historical period(s) reflected in their coursework and thesis/professional paper).

Summary of Data:*

1)

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	1	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	1	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: not useful given small cohort	100

Note: Hist 615 was not taught in 2015-2016 because of staffing limitations; Public Affairs were allowed to substitute any graduate seminar in history.

2)

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	1	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	1	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: not useful given small cohort	100

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2:

With so little data, there are few concrete conclusions to be reached. The most obvious point is that the program needs to recruit more students in order to prosper. There are a number of new students, so next year's report should provide additional data for assessment.

Student Learning Outcome 3:

Students will develop skills in reading, research, writing, critical and reflective thought, and communication. The acquisition of these skills will prepare graduates of the program for teaching in secondary schools and community colleges, for research-oriented employment in non-academic and applied settings, and for the additional education necessary to earn a PhD or other additional advanced degree.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 3:

- Mastery of content knowledge and skills
- Effective communication skills
- Critical and reflective thinking skills
- Effective Use of Technology

Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:

- 1) Methods in History. Criterion for success, 75% of students earning A or B. Students will achieve a grade of A or B in Hist/Poli Sci 620: Research.
- 2) Students fill out surveys (see attachment 2) at or after their comprehensive exam or defense, including questions asking them to comment on the program’s impact on their research, writing, and analytical skills. Criteria for success, majority rating program as excellent or good in all three areas.

Summary of Data:

1)

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	1	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	1	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: not useful given small cohort	100

2)

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	1	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	1	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: not useful given small cohort	100

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Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:

With so little data, there are few concrete conclusions to be reached. The most obvious point is that the program needs to recruit more students in order to prosper. There are a number of new students, so next year’s report should provide additional data for assessment.

Student Learning Outcome 4:

Students will master the scholarly literature in their chosen field of concentration (History)

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 4:

- Mastery of content knowledge and skills

Means of Assessment for Outcome 4:

- 1) Faculty portfolio checklists (attachment 1) ask Graduate Coordinator to evaluate student mastery of the relevant scholarly literature in graduating students' theses/professional papers. Criterion for success, rating of good or excellent on the relevant evaluative measure.
- 2) Students fill out surveys (see attachment 2) at or after their comprehensive exam or defense, including questions asking them to comment on the program's impact on their understanding of the literature of the field. Criteria for success, majority rating program as excellent or good in this area.

Summary of Data:

1)

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	1	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	1	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: not useful given small cohort	100

2)

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	1	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	1	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: not useful given small cohort	100

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 4:

With so little data, there are few concrete conclusions to be reached. The most obvious point is that the program needs to recruit more students in order to prosper. There are a number of new students, so next year's report should provide additional data for assessment.

Portfolio Checklist for Outcomes Assessment Public Affairs/History

Student: _____

Semester: _____

Evaluator: _____

Work Evaluated: _____

After reviewing the work being evaluated, assign a number from 1 to 5 for each of the categories below, with 5 signifying “excellent” and 1 signifying “poor.”

	Poor		Fair		Excellent	
1. Subject matter relevance to program mission	1	2	3	4	5	
2. Understanding of history, historiography	1	2	3	4	5	
3. Factual accuracy	1	2	3	4	5	
4. Organization (chronology, logical progression)	1	2	3	4	5	
5. Clarity of expression and argument		1	2	3	4	5
6. Review of literature (completeness, critical thought)	1	2	3	4	5	
7. Original contribution to the field	1	2	3	4	5	

Total Points: _____

Comments:

Survey of Graduating Students

Public Affairs/History

New Mexico Highlands University

Please help us to evaluate and improve the Public Affairs Program by responding to the following questions. All responses will remain anonymous. **Note: PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE SHEET.**

1. Name _____ ID N° _____.

2. Program Evaluation (please use reverse side if necessary)

2.1. Considering what you learned while in the Public Affairs program at Highlands, what has been most useful or helpful to you?

2.2. To what extent did your experience in the Public Affairs Program assist you in:

	Poorly				Extremely
Well					
Understanding the literature of the discipline	1	2	3	4	5
Critical analysis of written arguments	1	2	3	4	5
Appreciating cultural diversity	1	2	3	4	5
Writing clearly	1	2	3	4	5
Developing the skills necessary for research	1	2	3	4	5

2.3. Is there something you wish you had learned while at Highlands that was not included in your Master's program?

2.4. How would you rate the Public Affairs Program in terms of:

	Poor	Fair	Excellent
Quality of courses offered	1	2	3 4 5
Variety of courses offered		1	2 3 4 5
Availability of courses offered	1	2	3 4 5
Accessibility and approachability of faculty	1	2	3 4 5
Education and qualification of faculty	1	2	3 4 5
Quality of academic advising	1	2	3 4 5

2.5. What recommendations would you make concerning the Public Affairs Program at Highlands?

2.6. Looking back, are you pleased you chose to pursue a Master's in Public Affairs? Please explain.

2.7. In your opinion what is the academic quality of:

	Poor	Fair	Excellent
The Public Affairs Program overall:	1	2	3 4 5
Your specific area of concentration:	1	2	3 4 5

Comments: _____

Please return this questionnaire to Dr. Linder in Douglas Hall N° 241. Thank you very much for your assistance.

* Please answer these questions only if they are relevant to your experience in the program and concentration.