

Outcomes Assessment

Department of History and Political Science

B.A. History Major

Assessment Period: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Mission of the Department of History & Political Science

Historical and political awareness and understanding constitutes one of the chief attributes of a functional and involved citizen of the United States. It is the mission of this department to provide an education that will contribute to the realization of this ideal by every student. We also seek to train graduates to work in a variety of public and private sector jobs, utilizing their historical and political skills and knowledge. Finally, the department is committed to preserving, interpreting, and promoting the unique multicultural heritage of the region.

Goals of the History Program

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.

Program Student Outcomes

1. Upon completion of the history major, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of major historical periods, figures, and developments.
2. Upon completion of the history major, students will be able to demonstrate a comprehension of the fundamental processes of historical analysis.
3. Upon completion of the history major, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the literature in given fields.
4. Upon completion of the history major, students will be able to write a historical paper that is well organized, that states and defends a position or thesis, that marshals evidence in support of that thesis, that demonstrates competent use of language, and that is formatted correctly.

Student Learning Outcome 1:

Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of major historical periods, figures, and developments.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 1:

- Mastery of content knowledge and skills

Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:

Grades from 300/400-level history classes offered during the spring semester. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 50% of history majors receiving a B or above in each of the courses.

Summary of Data:

Total number of students assessed
Number of students meeting criterion
Number of students not meeting criterion
Percentage of students meeting criterion

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1:**Student Learning Outcome 2:**

Students will be able to demonstrate a comprehension of the fundamental processes of historical analysis.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 2:

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

Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:

The final research project in History 301 *Research Methods in History and Political Science* will be used for this assessment. The history faculty will evaluate the paper on the basis of the accuracy of the content, the use of literature in the field, the soundness of the historical argument and interpretation, the organization and logical progression of the argument, and the use of relevant sources to support the thesis/argument. A grade of B or above will indicate a successful completion of this outcome.

Summary of Data:

Total number of students assessed
Number of students meeting criterion
Number of students not meeting criterion
Percentage of students meeting criterion

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2:**Student Learning Outcome 3:**

Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of historical literature in a given field.

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

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:

The final oral presentation of the historiographical essay in History 480 *Historiography* will be used for this assessment. The history faculty will evaluate the presentation on the basis of the student's ability to accurately present the development of historical writing and thought as represented by a historian in a selected field. The presentation will be scored on the basis of the attached rubric. A grade of "B" or better on the project will indicate a successful completion of this outcome.

Summary of Data:

Total number of students assessed
Number of students meeting criterion
Number of students not meeting criterion
Percentage of students meeting criterion

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:

The final essay in History 480 *Historiography* will be used for this assessment. The history faculty will evaluate the paper on the basis of the student's analysis of the historical argument of a work by a historian in a particular field and the student's ability to place that argument in relation to other writing in the same field and/or by the same author. A grade of B or above will indicate a successful completion of this outcome.

Summary of Data:

Total number of students assessed
Number of students meeting criterion
Number of students not meeting criterion
Percentage of students meeting criterion

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:

Student Learning Outcome #4:

Upon completion of the history major, students will be able to write a historical paper that is well organized, that states and defends a position or thesis, that marshals evidence in support of that thesis, that demonstrates competent use of language, and that is formatted correctly.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 4:

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

Means of Assessment for Outcome 4:

The final research project in History 301 *Research Methods in History and Political Science* will be used for this assessment. The history faculty will evaluate the paper on the basis of a clear statement of an organizing thesis, the accuracy and development of a historical argument, the clarity of expression, and the proper formatting of a historical essay. The paper will be scored on the basis of the attached rubric. A score 3.0 or above will indicate a successful completion of this outcome.

Summary of Data:

Total number of students assessed
Number of students meeting criterion
Number of students not meeting criterion
Percentage of students meeting criterion

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 4: