Program Assessment Plan
American University
Academic Program: CAS: History - MA

Contact Person for Assessment: Eric Lohr
Unit's Primary Department: History
Are there any changes in your assessment method?: No

Learning Outcome: Content Knowledge
Students will be able to demonstrate broad knowledge of historical events and periods and their significance.

Outcome Year: 2011-2012
2012-2013
Start Date: 10/04/2011
Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measure</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Schedule/Cycle</th>
<th>Active</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All comprehensive examinations will be evaluated for students' knowledge of historical eras and historiography.</td>
<td>70% of students will pass.</td>
<td>Every Spring (beginning Spring 2012). Graduate director will compile results for inclusion in Department's Annual Report.</td>
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<td>Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam</td>
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<td>Placement in PhD programs or jobs requiring the MA is evidence that the students have qualified themselves by achieving the learning outcome. We will survey students after graduation and keep track of where they go next.</td>
<td>Graduate Director, aided by the administrative assistant, will track graduates of the program and note the doctoral programs or jobs they attain. X% will enter such programs and professional positions (to be determined in future cycles after data collection period).</td>
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<td>Measure Type: Job/Grad School Placement</td>
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Related Action Steps

* Supporting Assessment: Colloquia Syllabi Review
  Description: Colloquia syllabi will be reviewed to ensure broad chronological and topical coverage and varied scholarly approaches to history. 100% of colloquia will demonstrate breadth in chronology, topics, and approaches. Year 1, beginning Spring 2012. Graduate Committee.

* Supporting Assessment: Curriculum Review
  Description: Curriculum of graduate courses offered over 2 years will be reviewed to ensure that sufficient topical chronological, and sub-field breadth is available to all students during a typical program of study. Chair and Graduate Director will agree that sufficient courses are offered. Every Spring, beginning Spring 2012. Graduate Director and Department Chair.

* Supporting Assessment: Facebook Tracking
  Description: We will seek to enroll every student in a Facebook page to maintain contact after graduation as a way to help track post-graduation employment/further study.

Learning Outcome: Schools of Thought
Students will be able to explain and critique the historical schools of thought that have shaped scholarly understanding of their fields of study.

Outcome Year: 2011-2012
2012-2013
Learning Outcome: Critical Analysis

Students will be able to deploy skills of critical analysis:

a. Formulating persuasive arguments
b. Evaluating evidence and critiquing claims in the literature
c. Interpreting a variety of primary sources

Outcome Year:

- 2011-2012
- 2012-2013

Start Date: 10/04/2011
Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

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<td>Sample final projects from Research Seminar to ensure these goals are met.</td>
<td>75% of research papers will demonstrate original contribution from primary research, engage literature of the field, and meet professional standards.</td>
<td>Year 3 Spring, beginning Spring 2014.</td>
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## Related Action Steps

* Supporting Assessment: Colloquia Syllabi Review

**Description:** Colloquia syllabi will be reviewed to ensure broad chronological and topical coverage and varied scholarly approaches to history.

- 100% of colloquia will demonstrate breadth in chronology, topics, and approaches.

  Year 1, beginning Spring 2012.

  Graduate Committee.

* Supporting Assessment: Curriculum Review

**Description:** Curriculum of graduate courses offered over 2 years will be reviewed to ensure that sufficient topical chronological, and sub-field breadth is available to all students during a typical program of study.

  Chair and Graduate Director will agree that sufficient courses are offered.

  Every Spring, beginning Spring 2012.

  Graduate Director and Department Chair.

* Supporting Assessment: Facebook Tracking.

**Description:** Placement in PhD programs or jobs requiring the MA is evidence that the students have qualified themselves by achieving the learning outcome. We will survey students after graduation and keep track of where they go next. We will seek to enroll every student in a Facebook page to maintain contact after graduation.
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Related Action Steps

* Supporting Assessment: Facebook Tracking

Description: Placement in PhD programs or jobs requiring the MA is evidence that the students have qualified themselves by achieving the learning outcome. We will survey students after graduation and keep track of where they go next. We will seek to enroll every student in a Facebook page to maintain contact after graduation.

Learning Outcome: Original Research

Students will be able to conduct research that makes an original contribution to knowledge, deploying these essential skills:
- a. Reviewing the state of the field to identify a new topic and locate their work within larger scholarly conversations
- b. Identify and accessing a sufficient base of primary sources
- c. Producing a high-quality research paper, well-written and meeting professional standards typical for conference presentation or academic publication.

Outcome Year: 2011-2012  
2012-2013

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