

STUDENT OUTCOME ASSESSMENT PLAN

Department of History Master of Arts Program

A. Missions, Goals and Learning Outcomes

Mission Statement

The Department of History has offered a Master of Arts degree since 1958. The M.A. program in History offers graduate student seminars on a wide range of historical periods and approaches. The program also provides the conscientious student with the requisite research skills to ensure success in future academic or related pursuits. An energetic community of graduate students has developed with our department, and our graduates have become successful teachers at the high school and community college level. Many have also moved on to pursue their career at the doctoral level.

Since its inception in 1958, the M.A. program has served the University and the community by concentrating on three tasks: 1.) Providing post-baccalaureate professional training for teaching in secondary schools and community colleges; 2) preparing students for graduate work at the doctoral level; and 3) meeting the needs of interested students for further intellectual development and personal enrichment in the field of History. In order to accomplish this goal, the department has developed a rigorous and well-rounded program that enables students to obtain a broad-based education at the master's level.

Graduate Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

CSUF's History M.A. program offers a traditional track (with two possible culminating experiences: thesis or comprehensive examination) and a teaching option (in which students complete a project). Both the traditional track and teaching option seek to provide breadth and depth of knowledge. To this end, the first 15 units in both tracks are geared to the investigation of broad methodological and content questions, while the last 15 units (including 6 units of culminating experience work) concentrate on a narrower area of research and interpretation.

Assignments related to the culminating experience in each track are unique, and thus the program's assessment of each track varies somewhat, as elucidated in the explanations below.

Goal 1: Expand upon undergraduate foundations while enhancing professional competencies in historical content and methods, historiography, and theory. [Knowledge and content]

(Assessed through 1. samples of written assignments, 2. thesis/project prospectus, and 3. thesis/project or comprehensive exams - all to be part of Graduate Student Portfolio)

Outcome 1.1 Students will demonstrate advanced content knowledge in specified areas of concentration.

Outcome 1.2 Students will demonstrate mastery of historiographical debates related to the specified areas of concentration.

Outcome 1.3 Students will demonstrate fluency in theoretical approaches to the writing of history.

Goal 2: Provide training in various aspects of advanced historical research design and critical analysis. [Critical thinking and analysis]

(Assessed through Thesis/Project Prospectus and Thesis/Project or through final essay for HIST 200B [for students completing comprehensive exams as culminating experience], each to be part of Graduate Student Portfolio)

Outcome 2.1 Students will demonstrate an advanced ability in designing a major research project, including the development of a viable thesis, an effective methodology, and a sound organization.

Outcome 2.2 Students will demonstrate an advanced aptitude in the critical analysis of primary and secondary sources.

Goal 3: Provide training and opportunities for growth in the areas of written and oral communication skills. [Performance and professionalism]

(Assessed through samples of written assignments and thesis/project/exams, all to be part of Graduate Student Portfolio, and through formal written evaluations of participation in 200-level courses)

Outcome 3.1 Students will successfully revise, through the final approval process, a thesis or project or write a passing comprehensive exam.

Outcome 3.2 Students will demonstrate advanced-level oral skills, including efficient organization of ideas, effective delivery, and effectual engagement of the audience.

**History Graduate Program
Student Learning Outcomes Course Matrix**

Objectives	Courses							
	HIST 200A	HIST 200B	HIST 210T/ 220T/ 230T	HIST 296	HIST 297	HIST 298	HIST 290	HIST 299
1.1 – Students will demonstrate advanced content knowledge in specified areas of concentration			X	X	X	X	X	X
1.2 – Students will demonstrate mastery of historiographical debates related to the specified areas of concentration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.3 – Students will demonstrate fluency in theoretical approaches to the writing of history		X				X		X
2.1 – Students will demonstrate an advanced ability in designing a major research project, including the development of a viable thesis, an effective methodology, and a sound organization.	X	X		X				
2.2 – Students will demonstrate an advanced aptitude in the critical analysis of primary and secondary sources.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.1 – Students will successfully revise, through the final approval process, a thesis or project or write a passing comprehensive exam						X		X
3.2 – Students will demonstrate advanced-level oral skills, including efficient organization of ideas, effective delivery, and effectual engagement of the audience.	X	X						

B. Graduate Program Student Outcome Assessment Plan

1. Assessment Tools

The History Graduate Student Portfolio

To improve on a consistent basis the education we can offer post-baccalaureate history students, the History Department is dedicated to measuring its effectiveness in reaching the program objectives stated above. To do so, we have implemented a system by which we can evaluate students' written work over time. Mirroring the undergraduate History Major Portfolio, we will require the creation by each graduate student of a digital History Graduate Student Portfolio, a collection of his or her work, as per the instructions below. The Graduate History Student Portfolio will consist of the following components:

1. The student's Thesis/Project Prospectus, or equivalent research proposal if taking exams (completed in either HIST 200A or HIST 200B)
2. An early draft of one chapter of the Thesis/Project , or of research paper if taking exams
3. An essay/assignment from a 200-level topics course
4. A second essay/assignment from a different 200-level topics course
5. The student's final draft of the Thesis/Project , or a digital copy of the comprehensive exams if appropriate
6. A short exit survey to be completed in the semester of graduation

2. Assessment Activities

Evaluation of Exit Survey (2010-2011)

This brief exit survey is intended to capture students' evaluation of their experience as post-baccalaureate History students at California State University, Fresno. The questions are broad, requiring students to reflect not only on what they have learned, but also on how they have grown as historians. The survey also seeks to understand how students may have approached their program differently from the outset, given what they now know. Finally, suggestions are solicited regarding how students gauge the quality of the post-baccalaureate education in History they have received at Fresno State.

Evaluation of 200-level Writing Assignments (2011-2012)

During the fall semester 2011, the History Department will develop the guidelines and rubric for consistent evaluation of 200-level writing assignments related to our listed goals. Evaluation of actual assignments will be undertaken in the subsequent semester.

Evaluation of Oral Competency (2012-2013)

During the fall semester 2012, the History Department will develop the guidelines and rubric for consistent evaluation of students' oral competency related to our listed goals. Evaluation of actual assignments will be undertaken in the subsequent semester.

Evaluation of Theses (Prospectus, Draft, and Final Copy – 2013-2014)

During the fall semester 2013, the History Department will develop the guidelines and rubric for consistent evaluation of theses related to our listed goals. Evaluation of actual assignments will be undertaken in the subsequent semester.

Evaluation of Projects (Prospectus, Draft, and Final Copy – 2014-2015)

During the fall semester 2014, the History Department will develop the guidelines and rubric for consistent evaluation of students' oral competency related to our listed goals. Evaluation of actual assignments will be undertaken in the subsequent semester.

Evaluation of Comprehensive Examinations (2015-2016)

During the fall semester 2015, the History Department will develop the guidelines and rubric for consistent evaluation of students' oral competency related to our listed goals. Evaluation of actual assignments will be undertaken in the subsequent semester.

History Graduate Program Goals/Objectives and Assessment Measures Matrix

Objectives	Measures					
	Prospectus	Draft	Assignment	Assignment	Thesis/ Project/ Exams	Oral Evaluations
1.1 – Students will demonstrate advanced content knowledge in specified areas of concentration			X	X	X	
1.2 – Students will demonstrate mastery of historiographical debates related to the specified areas of concentration	X	X			X	
1.3 – Students will demonstrate fluency in theoretical approaches to the writing of history	X	X			X	
2.1 – Students will demonstrate an advanced ability in designing a major research project, including the development of a viable thesis, an effective methodology, and a sound organization.	X	X			X	
2.2 – Students will demonstrate an advanced aptitude in the critical analysis of primary and secondary sources.						
3.1 – Students will successfully revise, through the final approval process, a thesis or project or write a passing comprehensive exam		X			X	
3.2 – Students will demonstrate advanced oral skills, including efficient organization of ideas, effective delivery, and engagement of the audience.						X

History Graduate Program

Assessment Measures and Year Timeline

Measures	Years					
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Prospectus Draft Thesis				X		
Prospectus Draft Project					X	
Exam						X
Two 200- level essays		X				
Oral evaluations			X			
Exit Survey	X					