

# University of Dayton History Department Assessment Plan

## **Definition of the Unit**

Department of History

## **Mission and goals of the unit mapped to broader university goals/mission/strategic plan**

The Department of History serves the University of Dayton and the discipline of history by outstanding teaching, significant research, effective service to community and profession, and thoughtful criticism of society.

**Goal I:** Our goal is to prepare all students majoring in history so that they are able to demonstrate competence in delineating trends, interpreting primary documents, marshalling data, synthesizing information and mastering the oral/written communication skills essential to produce historical scholarship appropriate for public presentation and defense.

## **Outcomes mapped to university-wide learning outcomes as listed in the University Assessment Plan**

Goal I maps directly to university-wide outcome #1

1. **Scholarship:** All undergraduates will develop and demonstrate advanced habits of academic inquiry and creativity through the production of a body of artistic, scholarly or community-based work intended for public presentation and defense.

## **Accreditation requirements, if applicable**

Accreditation not a requirement of the Department of History

## **Assessment schedule – when each of the outcomes will be assessed**

Assessment will be conducted during the Fall and Spring Semester of each Academic Year

## **Definition of “players” – those responsible for assessment**

The Department of History Assessment Committee will be responsible for conducting that annual assessment process.

### **Areas in which units will collaborate on assessment programs**

The Department of History is a major resource in providing for General Education, providing courses in the Humanities Base and in the Clusters. Assessment of these areas will require the cooperation of the Office of the Dean. The department also provides courses for a variety of major, minor, and graduate programs and will require the cooperation of these programs to measure effectiveness. Furthermore, the Department of History is a major partner with the School of Education and Allied Professions in the formation of teachers and will need to work closely with this partner in conducting assessment when appropriate.

### **Description of the process involved – what gets done by whom - define responsibilities**

The Department of History Assessment Committee has ownership of the process. At the annual Department Retreat, which takes place at the beginning of each academic year, the Committee will share its annual report with the entire department, it will propose actions items for the department to consider in response to the assessment results, it will also identify new goal(s) for the next annual assessment cycle and propose measures for the selected goal(s). During the course of the academic year, the Assessment Committee will conduct the assessment, evaluate the results, and prepare its annual report. It will also share its results and recommendations with the Department Chairperson for possible action by other appropriate committees within the department.

### **How assessment will be documented, including the assessment plan, revisions to the plan, measurement results, and actions taken as a result of assessment**

The Department of History will maintain a central file and database of all materials related to assessment including the formal assessment plan and annual revisions, the annual report which will include the measurement results of assessment and a report on action items taken as a result of outcomes.

### **How assessment results will be used**

The assessment results will be turned over to the Chairperson of the Department of History who will be responsible for submitting them to the Executive Committee and the Curriculum Committee of the department for appropriate action.

### **How assessment results will be communicated to constituents – internal and external audiences**

The Office of the Dean and the University Assessment Committee will receive the annual report. At the Annual Fall Retreat (before the beginning of Fall Semester), the Assessment Committee will review the annual report with the faculty and determinations will be made with respect to actionable items.

**Measurements to be used, having sufficient sensitivity to identify specific gaps in student learning – include multiple measures, multiple sources, direct and indirect measures**

The Assessment Committee will systematically track the following in order to measure success in the achievement of **Goal I**:

a) History majors who have presented formal papers in the following venues:

Phi Alpha Theta Conference

Stander Symposium

Ripple-Perkins Award

(there should also be a way to determine honorable mention for quality papers that do not receive an award)

Honors Thesis

b) The Committee will track students who have successfully applied to graduate/law school, etc.

c) The Committee will carefully identify all of our students as they complete their program and manage a data base that allows us to capture useful alumni feedback on a continuous basis.

d) The Committee will work with the Department Chairperson to devise an exit interview process that collects appropriate data with respect to student success in meeting our stated goals.

e) The Committee will maintain an accurate and current list of all our majors and identify when a student has met the stated **Goal I** during the course of the student's career at UD.

f) When appropriate the Committee will conduct Alumni Surveys, Student Focus Groups, Pre/Post testing of select courses and Close reading exams of selected classes to determine whether a student has met **Goal I**.

**Involvement or role of students in assessment**

Alumni and Current Students will be assessed to determine outcomes

**Constraints, if any, of communicating results to external audiences**

Depending upon the methods used, certain privacy constraints may well apply

### **How information will be reported to the University Assessment Committee**

The Department Assessment Committee will utilize the “Report Template” as recommended by the UAC to submit an annual report by the end of June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

### **How results will be tracked over time**

The Department Assessment Committee will maintain a database of all assessment data. The Chairperson of the Department of History will be responsible for maintaining appropriate departmental files of all materials generated by the Department Assessment Committee.