

University of Dayton History Department Assessment
Reading and Writing: AY 2006-07

Outcome #5: Students completing the baccalaureate degree in History will be able to critically evaluate a variety of primary and secondary source material.

Measure A: In a triennial alumni survey, 70% of the respondents will agree that their advanced required History courses provided them with the ability to evaluate critically the information they read. In a related question, 50% of the respondents will agree with the following statement: “The research skills gained from my advanced required History courses are relevant to my life as a citizen.”

Assessment: The next alumni survey will take place in 2007-08.

Measure B: Every year the focus group, evaluated by the DAC, will be able to provide examples of how their History courses enabled them to critically evaluate primary and secondary source material.

Assessment: All students in the focus group could explain the distinction between primary and secondary sources. They gave a variety of examples of how to critically evaluate both kinds of sources.

Outcome #6: Students completing the baccalaureate program in History will be able to write clearly and analytically.

Measure A: In the annual senior close reading test, 60% of History majors will write with precision and insight in identifying the arguments used in various secondary sources.

Assessment: 86 percent of the students were able to meet this criterion.

Note that last year’s report recommended a discussion of some means of addressing our students’ problems in writing precise and insightful essays. The result of this discussion was a proposal for a new proseminar for history majors, HST 253.

Measure B: In a triennial alumni survey, 75% of the respondents will agree that their advanced required History courses provided them with writing skills that they find useful and relevant in their professional lives.

Assessment: The next alumni survey will take place in 2007-08.