

# ***Institutional Effectiveness Report***

***Academic Year 2014-2015***

***Department of History***

***May 21, 2015***

## ***HISTORY PROGRAM MISSION AND GOALS***

The mission of the History Program is to train the intellect and to prepare students for lives of personal enrichment and constructive achievement. The study of history comprises the elements of liberal education: the acquisition of knowledge, the nurturing of understanding, and the development of perspective on oneself and one's society. The reconstruction of the human past conveys an appreciation of cultural contexts and traditions, and it enhances critical thinking and communication skills. The major in history provides a broad understanding of the development of various cultures throughout the world. History Faculty engage in scholarship and research and serve in various ways the university and the local community.

The goals of the History Program support the mission of Francis Marion University:

- to enable “students to develop their ability to think and communicate, to gain the knowledge and skills to pursue a career or further study, to appreciate the creativeness of the human mind, to be aware of the human and natural environment of the world, and to have the capacity to pursue a life of learning and understanding”
- to provide “outstanding faculty members distinguished by high achievement and diverse academic background” who engage in “research for presentation and publication as well as the classroom” and “participate in and contribute to a great variety of community activities”

### ***Assessment Activities***

For 2014-2015, the Department of History continued to use four primary assessment tools to measure program efficacy: evaluation of randomly selected papers written by graduating history majors in History 499 (Senior Thesis), in-house general examination of history knowledge administered to graduating history majors, Francis Marion University Student Rating Form, and a detailed questionnaire of graduating history majors.

**Statement of Analyses Reported for Purposes of IE**

**Behavioral Outcome:** Bachelor's degree recipients with a major in history will achieve undergraduate competence in the core methodologies of library research and writing in the discipline:

At least 70% of randomly selected papers from Hist. 499 (Senior Thesis) will demonstrate adequate library research skills and writing skills.

	Fa 11 – Sp 12 n=10	Fa 12 – Sp 13 n=14	Fa 13 – Sp 14 n=15	Fa 14 – Sp 15 n=16
Adequate Research Skills	8	8	9	11
Adequate Writing Skills	10	8	9	9

**Cognitive Outcome:** Bachelor's degree recipients with a major in history will achieve basic knowledge in the core content areas of history.

History Exit Examination: 50% of graduating seniors will score at or above 50%

	Sp 10 N=7	Sp 11 N=9	Sp12 N=11	Sp13 N=15	Sp14 N=10	Sp15 N=17
Score => 50%	9	8	10	13	10	14
Score < 50%		1	1	2		3

**Affective Outcome:** Students enrolled in history classes will express satisfaction with the quality of instruction provided by the History Program faculty

Francis Marion University Student Rating Form: #7 Overall quality of instruction

	Sp10	Sp11	Sp12	Sp13	Sp14	Sp15
University Mean	1.66	1.64	1.61	1.61	1.55	1.59
Department Mean	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.51	1.37	1.39

Exit Questionnaire: #II-4 Quality of history instruction compared with other programs  
(1 = best, 5 = worst)

	Sp10 N=7	Sp11 N=7	Sp12 N=12	Sp13 N=12	Sp14 N=10	Sp15 N=17
1	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	1		2	3	2	2
3						
4	2	2	1	2		4
5			3			2

**Primary Issues Identified Fall 2014 – Spring 2015**

Issues of Concern 2014-2015	Actions Taken
Creation and first-time offering of History 299, The Historians Craft and History 499, The Senior Thesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department worked to change the History Program’s Curriculum to include two new courses for History Majors.</li> <li>• Hist 299 taken at the sophomore level and Hist 499 the senior capstone course.</li> <li>• This increased the History Major required hours from 30 to 33 credit hours.</li> <li>• Enrollment:                  Hist 299 F 2014 = 6                  Hist 499 F 2014 = 8                  Hist 299 not offered in Sp 2015                  Hist 499 Sp 2015 = 11</li> </ul>
Faculty Promotion issues (Jan 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drs. Venters and Kennedy went up for Promotion with the support of the Department</li> <li>• Subsequently Promotions awarded:                  Dr. Venters to Associate Professor                  Dr. Kennedy to Full Professor</li> </ul>
Creation of more History Internships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History internships for our students enrolled in the Class Hist 487, The History Internship have been created at more diverse areas.</li> <li>• One developed in Sumter, SC.</li> <li>• We still have the ongoing paid internship in Lake City, SC.</li> <li>• Additional Internships offered in Lake City in Spring 2015:                  Browntown Historical Society                  Lynches lake Historical Society                  Art Fields Art show organizers</li> </ul>
Revision of the History Department’s Institutional Effectiveness Plan and our various desired Student learning outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created an “I.E.” committee of the History Department to include: Drs. Kennedy, Kaufman, Campbell, and Bolt</li> <li>• Held 4 meetings of the History I.E. Committee to revise current I.E. report, outcomes, and forms of assessment</li> <li>• All Members also attended a University-wide I.E. workshop on 5/12/15</li> <li>• Additional meetings to be held over the summer 2015 with a new revised I.E. Plan to be completed by 9/1/2015 and implemented for the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 academic year</li> <li>• A working Draft Copy of that new I.E. plan is included with this Report</li> </ul>

This I.E. Report was duly submitted on May 21, 2015

---

Christopher M. Kennedy, Ph.D.  
 Associate Professor and Chair  
 Department of History

# *Working Draft*

## *Institutional Effectiveness Report Department of History*

*Date: xx/xx/xxxx*

### **HISTORY PROGRAM MISSION**

The mission of the History Program is to train the intellect and to prepare students for lives of personal enrichment and constructive achievement. The study of history comprises the elements of liberal education: the acquisition of knowledge, the nurturing of understanding, and the development of perspective on oneself and one's society. The reconstruction of the human past conveys an appreciation of cultural contexts and traditions, and it enhances critical thinking and communication skills. The major in history provides a broad understanding of the development of various cultures throughout the world. History Faculty engage in scholarship and research and serve in various ways the university and the local community.

### **HISTORY PROGRAM GOALS**

The goals of the History Program support the Mission of Francis Marion University:

- to enable “students to develop their ability to think and communicate, to gain the knowledge and skills to pursue a career or further study, to appreciate the creativeness of the human mind, to be aware of the human and natural environment of the world, and to have the capacity to pursue a life of learning and understanding.”
- to provide “outstanding faculty members distinguished by high achievement and diverse academic background” who engage in “research for presentation and publication as well as the classroom” and “participate in and contribute to a great variety of community activities.”

Through the study of History our students gain a better understanding of contemporary events, a knowledge of people in various times and places, critical thinking skills, and the ability to express themselves effectively in oral and written communication.

## **History Program Assessment Activities**

For 2015-2016, the Department of History will develop and implement new assessment tools to measure program efficacy.

Various assessment tools will include the following:

1) an evaluation of randomly selected papers written by graduating history majors in History 499, The Senior Thesis as to research skills, thesis development, and source usage and proper citation; 2) Pass/fail %s in History major required classes, Hist. 299 and Hist. 499; 3) An in-house Department generated general examination administered to graduating history majors which contains questions on the discipline, cultural awareness/diversity, historical theory, historical facts, and historical chronology; 4) An in-house Department generated questionnaire administered to graduating history majors which contains questions on the program, instruction, facilities, and overall preparedness provided to the students; 5) The Department shall make use of the Francis Marion University Student Rating Form and course evaluations given to all students; 6) The Department assesses the Sophomore level class Hist. 299 (made up exclusively of History Majors and Minors) by administering a pre and post class exam; 7) Furthermore an assessment is given to all students enrolled in Hist. 499 (the Senior Thesis) to underscore the retention rate from 299 to 499; \*) In addition to the above, other various data such as membership in historical organizations and societies, application #s and acceptance rates into internship programs, graduate programs, etc. will be collected and used in assessing the History Department and Program here at FMU.

### **\*NOTE\***

To “Close the Loop” all methods of assessment, exams, and questionnaires will be subject to annual review, reevaluation, and revision by the I.E. Committee of the Department of History.

There are three types of **Student Learning Outcomes** which the Department of History at Francis Marion University assesses: Knowledge, Skills, and Attitude Outcomes.

## ***Knowledge outcomes***

(Which address content and terminology of the discipline)

### **Outcome #1**

Demonstrate knowledge of key historical facts, values, and ideas that have shaped civilizations throughout history.

*Indicators of Achievement - Students will be able to:*

- Demonstrate comprehension of basic historical developments in a variety of civilizations.
- Demonstrate understanding of connections between historical events, ideas, and values over time.

**Benchmark assessment #1:** students are **Required** to take and pass in their sophomore year History 299, The Historians Craft. In that class they will be given a pre and post class examination. The pass/fail % will be recorded in our collected data.

**Benchmark assessment #2:** Students are further **Required** to take and pass in their senior year History 499, the Senior Thesis. At the commencement of that class they will be given a pre-class examination to see what they have retained from History 299. Subsequently the pass/fail rate on that will be tabulated. The Department will be graded as exceeds, satisfactory, or failing based on the pass/fail % of our students.

## Outcome #2

Students will be able to demonstrate broad knowledge of historical events and periods and their significance.

*Indicators of Achievement - Students will be able to:*

- Demonstrate an understanding of cause and effect along with a broad knowledge of the general chronology of historical developments in a variety of civilizations.

**Benchmark assessment #1:** students are **Required** as part of the Major to take and pass one upper division course from the 3 areas: A) European History B) Non-European/Non-U.S. History, and C) U.S. History. Thus in completing their degree requirements they are gaining a broad knowledge of historical developments in a variety of civilizations.

**Benchmark assessment #2:** All graduating senior history majors will be given an exit examination and questionnaire with specific, pointed questions on the historical developments in a variety of civilizations. Subsequently the pass/fail rate on those questions will be tabulated. The Department will be graded as exceeds, satisfactory, or failing based on the pass/fail % of our students.

## ***Skills outcomes***

(Which describe the techniques required for work in the discipline)

### Outcome #1

Analyze primary sources in their historical context.

*Indictors of Achievement - Students will be able to:*

- Identify and gather appropriate primary sources.
- Demonstrate awareness of connections between sources and their historical context.

**Benchmark assessment#1:** students are **Required** to take and pass in their sophomore year History 299, The Historians Craft. In that class they will be given a pre and post class examination on the nature and use of sources. The pass/fail % will be recorded in our collected data. Subsequently the pass/fail rate on that will be tabulated. The Department will be graded as exceeds, satisfactory, or failing based on the pass/fail % of our students.

**Benchmark assessment#2:** Students are further **Required** to take and pass in their senior year History 499, the Senior Thesis. At the commencement of that class they will be given a pre-class examination to see what they have retained from History 299. Subsequently the pass/fail rate on that will be tabulated. The Department will be graded as exceeds, satisfactory, or failing based on the pass/fail % of our students.

## Outcome #2

Analyze secondary sources and identify various approaches to historical interpretation through critical reading.

*Indicators of Achievement - Students will recognize the interpretive nature of history by:*

- Demonstrating the ability to read a secondary source to understand an author's basic argument.
- Demonstrating the ability to explain an author's approach to a topic and its connection to primary sources used.

**Benchmark assessment#1:** students are **Required** to take and pass in their sophomore year History 299, The Historians Craft. In that class they will be given a pre and post class examination on the nature and use of sources. The pass/fail % will be recorded in our collected data. Subsequently the pass/fail rate on that will be tabulated. The Department will be graded as exceeds, satisfactory, or failing based on the pass/fail % of our students.

**Benchmark assessment#2:** Students are further **Required** to take and pass in their senior year History 499, the Senior Thesis. At the commencement of that class they will be given a pre-class examination to see what they have retained from History 299. Furthermore, In History 499 students will produce a significant paper demonstrating their research skills, and use of secondary sources and the historiography in the area of their paper's topic. The pass/fail % will be recorded in our collected data.

## Outcome #3

Construct historical arguments based on primary sources and the historical method.

*Indicators of Achievement - Students will demonstrate the ability to make a valid historical interpretation based on source evidence through:*

- Written assignments
- Class discussions
- Oral presentations

**Benchmark assessment:** students are **Required** to take and pass in their senior year History 499, The Senior Thesis. In that class they will produce a significant paper demonstrating their research skills, and use of primary sources in the area of their paper's topic.

The Students will subsequently be graded on a class presentation of their senior thesis. The pass/fail % will be recorded in our collected data.

## Outcome #4

Construct historical arguments based on primary sources and the historical method.

*Indicators of Achievement - Students will demonstrate the ability to make a valid historical interpretation based on source evidence through:*

- Written assignments
- Oral presentations

**Benchmark assessment:** students are **Required** to take and pass in their senior year History 499, The Senior Thesis. In that class they will produce a significant paper demonstrating their research skills, and use of primary sources in the area of their paper's topic. Subsequently, in History 499 each student will be graded on an end of term oral presentation of their senior thesis.

The pass/fail % will be recorded in our collected data.

## Outcome #5

Demonstrate ability to conduct independent historical research.

*Indicators of Achievement - Students will be:*

- Identify a thesis topic.
- Identify, collect, and analyze historiography on the topic (using library, archival, and other appropriate material).
- Identify, collect, and analyze primary sources on the topic (using library, archival, and other appropriate material).
- Develop topic into a viable historical argument through submission of a formal thesis proposal.
- Based on sources identified, write original interpretation of chosen historical topic.
- Present results of research in both oral and written form.

**Benchmark assessment#1:** students are **Required** to take and pass in their sophomore year History 299, The Historians Craft. In that class they will be given a pre and post class examination on thesis identification and construction. Additionally they will be able to research and discern the historiography of their particular topic area. The pass/fail % will be recorded in our collected data. Subsequently the pass/fail rate on that will be tabulated. The Department will be graded as exceeds, satisfactory, or failing based on the pass/fail % of our students.

**Benchmark assessment#2:** Students are further **Required** to take and pass in their senior year History 499, the Senior Thesis. At the commencement of that class they will be given a pre-class examination to see what they have retained from History 299. Furthermore, In History 499 students will produce a significant paper demonstrating their ability to successfully develop a topic into a Thesis and use their research skills of both primary and secondary sources to support and defend their Thesis. The pass/fail % will be recorded in our collected data. Subsequently the pass/fail rate on that will be tabulated. The Department will be graded as exceeds, satisfactory, or failing based on the pass/fail % of our students.



# ***Attitude outcomes***

(Which address commitment, appreciation, or openness)

## **Outcome #1**

Demonstrate appreciation and commitment to their major course of study.

*Indicators of Achievement. This outcome can be measured through the following:*

**Benchmark assessment#1:** Student Membership #s in our FMU History Club as well as Phi Alpha Theta (the History Honors Society) will be tabulated, as they have to actively and willingly accept membership in the society.

**Benchmark assessment#2:** Student participation and paper acceptance for presentation at regional and national conferences of Phi Alpha Theta. This data can be discerned from the acceptance % of FMU students who apply to present their papers at the various conferences.

**Benchmark assessment#3:** Student application and acceptance into History Internship programs. This data can be discerned from the acceptance % of FMU students who apply for History Internships. Subsequent data to be collected on those students enrolled in Hist. 487, the History Internship which will record their grades and the overall pass/fail %s of students in Hist. 487, the History Internship class.

**Benchmark assessment#4:** Student application and acceptance #s into History graduate programs (MA, PhD) and other graduate programs (MLS). Questionnaire data response from the senior check-out exam on questions #1 - 3 on adequate preparation for advance study in History will be tabulated. The Department will be graded as exceeds, satisfactory, or failing based on those results.

**Benchmark assessment#5:** Students in their sophomore year in History 299, The Historians Craft will be given a pre and post class attitudes examination on the nature and use of sources, texts, and readings. The pass/fail % will be recorded in our collected data. Subsequently the pass/fail rate on that will be tabulated. The Department will be graded as exceeds, satisfactory, or failing based on the pass/fail % of our students.

**Benchmark assessment#6:** Students in all Upper division History classes will be given a standardized survey of the teaching effectiveness and course readings in those classes. This will be an in-House, department created questionnaire that surveys the students' perception of the course, assignments, and readings. The collected data will be tabulated. The Department will be graded as exceeds, satisfactory, or failing based on the pass/fail % of our students.

**Benchmark assessment#7:** All graduating History Majors will complete an in-house, senior check out evaluation of the History Department and program using a departmental designed senior questionnaire. Certain questions from that will be examined and the results tabulated. The Department will be graded as exceeds, satisfactory, or failing based on the pass/fail % of our students.