

*Institutional Effectiveness Report
Academic Year 2007-2008
Department of History*

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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 2007-2008, 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 301 (Historiography), in-house general examination of history administered to graduating history majors, Francis Marion University Student Rating Form, and a detailed survey of graduating history majors.

Statement of Analyses being 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:

5 of 6 randomly selected papers will demonstrate adequate library research skills and writing skills.

	Fa 06 – Sp07 n=6	Fa 07 - Sp 08 n=6
Adequate Research Skills	5	4
Adequate Writing Skills	5	4

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%

	Fa 06 n=10	Sp 07 n=3	Fa 07 n=4	Sp 08 n=9
Score => 50%	9	3	4	9
Score < 50%	1			

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

	Fa 06	Sp 07	Fa 07	Sp 08
University Mean	1.64	1.64	1.67	1.65
Department Mean	1.63	1.53	1.56	1.53

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

	Fa 06 n=8	Sp 07 n=4	Fa 07 n=4	Sp 08 n=9
1	5	2	2	3
2	2	1	2	4
3				
4				2
5	1	1		

Primary Issues Identified Fall 2007—Spring 2008

Issues of Concern 2007-2008	Actions Taken
<p>Hire a tenure track historian with specialization in American South who can also teach African American and South Carolina and with a subfield in Public History.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During fall 2007, the Department advertised for a qualified historian. The search ended successfully with the hiring of a historian with the appropriate qualifications. • Closure Spring 2008: New historian meets expectations
<p>Modify the course description for Hist 203, “European History to the French Revolution,” to include the ancient Greek and Roman antecedents of European History.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As originally described, Hist. 203 began with the High Middle Ages. The Department wrote and submitted for approval a new description for Hist 203 that includes the ancient antecedents of European History. • Closure Spring 2008: The faculty approved the proposal, and the new course description will appear in FMU Catalog 2008-2009.
<p>American military history course cross listed with the ROTC Program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In coordination with the ROTC Program, the Department prepared the paperwork necessary for approval of a course in American military history cross listed with the ROTC Program (Hist 406/MS 406). The proposal entered the faculty approval process in late spring 2008.
<p>Behavioral Outcome: Only 4 of 6 papers were satisfactory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch to see if a trend is developing.