

History Assessment

The following comments were communicated to the History department.

Overview: Your department's assessment is clearly useful and meaningful to you. And you have a good track record of gathering data and reflecting on how you can improve your program based on this data.

However, there were a couple of concerns of the assessment committee:

1. There was concern that outcomes did not specifically address "knowledge of history."
2. Clarify performance expectations: "college sophomore" and "college senior."
3. There was concern for intercoder reliability. Is it possible to gather some representative examples of good, average, and poor student work from each capstone and then have some agreement among the faculty teaching the capstone that these are indeed good, average, and poor student work?
4. Reduce number of student learning outcomes by focusing specifically on the ones necessary for history majors. You can assess and track them all, but for the catalog, it may be best to list only the history-specific ones.
5. You have only one measure of assessment and we are requiring that departments have at least two. You could do a student self-assessment. You could look at GRE scores for students who go to graduate school.