Assessment Plan
November 16, 2011

M.A. in History

1. Student Learning Objectives

   I. Master defined portions of a primary field and the related historiography.
   II. Read historical works with comprehension and evaluate historical arguments critically.
   III. Write clearly and grammatically.
   IV. Locate and evaluate historical sources.
   V. Produce an article-length research paper with unity of thought and logical arrangement of ideas.
   VI. Engage in historical discussion and debate.
   VII. Participate in the professional community of historians.

2. Methods

   Written Examinations and Research Paper. The M.A. Comprehensive Examination takes the form of two historiographical essays in the primary field, supervised by a main advisor and a secondary advisor. The Exam measures Objectives I, II, and III. The Research Paper, based on two semesters of research seminar coursework and one semester of independent research and writing, measures Objectives I, III, IV, and V.

   Assessment Forms. During coursework, course instructors complete the “Graduate Student Assessment Form,” assessing the students’ academic strengths and weaknesses. Responses on this form assess objectives I-VI and are qualitative. For the field examinations, two professors complete the “M.A. Field Assessment Form,” one for the students’ primary field and one for the secondary. The form measures objectives I, II, and III on a five-point scale, ranging from unsatisfactory to excellent. Objectives I, III, IV, and V are evaluated by the student’s research advisor on the “Comprehensive Exam Research Paper Assessment Report,” also on a five-point scale from unsatisfactory to excellent. Both of the last two forms also include a qualitative report.

   Student Representation. Student concerns and levels of satisfaction with the program are gauged in part by the participation of two elected graduate student representatives on the department’s Graduate Committee.

   Data Collection. Data on completion rate of assessment forms, graduation rates, time to graduation, course enrollments, number of students participating in professional conferences, etc. are gathered by the Director of Graduate Studies and the graduate office administrator.
Student Self Reporting. Students receiving department funding for research travel submit a report on their research progress, which is posted on the Graduate Program’s website. All students receiving department funding are required to submit these reports, so compliance is 100%. Student achievements, such as fellowship awards and presentations at conferences, are also posted on the website. These are self-reported by the students or their research mentors. The Graduate Program office periodically sends out a call for student achievement news to increase reporting.