

University of Rochester Master's Degree Program Assessment Plan

A. Program title: History

B. Program degree: MA

C. Program objectives and program learning outcomes:

Program objective 1. Program will prepare students to contribute to and practice in their field

Core knowledge: Students will demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the central narratives of their designated national history and acquaintance with the fundamental explanations that scholars have offered.

Specialized knowledge: Students will demonstrate mastery of the theories, methods, and scholarship of their particular subfield, including such modes of inquiry as cultural, women's, or environmental history.

Research: Students will demonstrate the ability to frame a significant and meaningful question in light of the pertinent scholarship and to locate and interpret relevant materials preserved from the past that will help them answer it.

Program objective 2. Program will prepare students to be successful and responsible professionals in their field

Written Communication: Students will convey ideas and arguments in clear, concise, well organized papers.

Oral Communication: Students will convey ideas and arguments succinctly and persuasively.

Professional Ethics: Students will act as responsible scholars, making honest arguments, treating documents professionally, and act to advance scholarly knowledge.

Responsible Citizenship: Students will use their professional skills to contribute to public life.

Program objective 3. Program will prepare students to hold positions of leadership in academic, government, non-profit and industry organizations

Leadership: Students will demonstrate leadership through positions held in professional activities

D. Program assessment methods- direct methods

The following methods will be implemented annually and for each master's degree candidate. Test results and faculty review forms for each method will be gathered in student file

1. Final essay scored for core and specialized knowledge will be collected and reviewed periodically.
2. Master's thesis, written form, will be reviewed by faculty committee periodically.
3. Awards, fellowships and other distinctions given by the program, University of Rochester, or external organizations
4. Data gathered on leadership positions held by enrolled students - reported by students in Graduating Student Survey.

E. Program assessment methods- indirect methods

The following indirect methods will be implemented as noted:

1. Graduating Student Survey will be a web based survey distributed (2012,2013, every other year after that) by the UR College Director of Assessment. The survey will include questions that ask students to rate program quality and factors related to learning for communication, leadership, research, teaching and global citizenship/ broader impact of research.

2. Program assessment data review plan

1. Data gathered in theory and methods course exams will be reviewed periodically by the program curriculum committee.
2. Data gathered in Master's Thesis Review Forms will be tabulated by program staff will be periodically reviewed by the program curriculum committee.
3. Data gathered on academic warning, qualifying exam results, and degrees conferred will be tabulated by the Graduate Studies Office and reviewed periodically by the DGS.

4. Data gathered in Graduating Student Survey will be reported to the program curriculum committee by the College Director of Assessment, and reviewed by the committee and DGS.