

University of Rochester Graduate Degree Program Assessment Plan

A. Program title: History

B. Program degree: PhD

C. Program objectives and program learning outcomes:

Program objective 1. Program will prepare students to contribute as original and creative scholars of history

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.

Creative synthesis/Critical Thinking: Students will demonstrate the ability to put forward significant generalizations about the past which engage and query extant scholarship and will marshal evidence that supports their contentions.

Scholarship: Students will produce original and scholarly historical work.

Program objective 2. Program will prepare students to be effective teachers

Lecture: Students will demonstrate that they can effectively narrate a true story of the past, communicating effectively to undergraduates a significant and meaningful understanding of the past.

Leading class discussion: Students will demonstrate the ability to foster meaningful discussion of significant historical issues among their students, engendering participation of all members of the class so as to stimulate learning.

Grading: Students will set meaningful and doable assignments and assesses them fairly and realistically.

Program objective 3. Program will prepare students to be successful and responsible history professionals

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.

D. Program assessment methods- direct methods

1. Course performance – students will take three courses a term, earning at least a B in each in order to proceed. Reviewed annually by the committee.
2. Review of seminar/research papers – Students will be required to submit one research paper each year to a portfolio. Those will be evaluated at the end of the year review meeting by the faculty as a whole at the end of a student's second year and tabulated in the Permission to Proceed Review Form.
3. Qualifying exam – written (research proposal)– test sections written and student responses reviewed by faculty responsible for each section. Scores on each section of exams will be reviewed periodically.
4. Qualifying exam – oral (research proposal)– test responses reviewed by faculty responsible for each section. Review of student performance on oral exams will be reviewed periodically.
5. Doctoral dissertation, written, will be reviewed by faculty committee using Doctoral Dissertation Defense Review Form. Data from review forms will be reviewed periodically.

6. Doctoral dissertation – oral defense – will be reviewed by faculty committee using the Doctoral Defense Review Form. Data from review forms will be reviewed periodically.
7. Awards, fellowships, and other distinctions given by the program, University of Rochester, or external organizations
8. Refereed journal and conference publications – reported by graduate student to program.
9. Teaching – performance will be reviewed by supervising faculty member

E. Program assessment methods- indirect methods

1. Graduate Student Survey will be a web-based survey distributed by the UR College Director of Assessment. The survey will also include questions that ask students to rate program quality and factors related to learning for communication, leadership, research and teaching.(2012, 2013, every other year after that)
2. Teaching survey – graduate student performance will be evaluated by undergraduate survey using Evaluation of Teaching form.

F. Program assessment data review

1. Data gathered in Permission to Proceed and Teaching Effectiveness forms will be reviewed by the Faculty of the Department of History periodically.
2. Data gathered in Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Review Forms and Doctoral Dissertation Defense Forms will be tabulated and reviewed by the Graduate Committee of the Department of History periodically.
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 annually to the Graduate Committee of the Department of History by the College Director of Assessment, and reviewed by the committee and DGS periodically.