

History Major

Learning Objectives and Assessment Plan

The department approved a standard rubric and rating scale for use in rating the research papers. Detailed descriptions of both are appended to this report. They are presented below in summary form.

Skills

1. Student frames a historical question.
2. Student employs a broad range of sources.
3. Student demonstrates an awareness of interpretive differences.
4. Student evaluates and analyzes primary sources.
5. Student writes clearly.
6. Student develops an interpretation based on evidence.
7. Student grasps relevant historical facts and context.

Rating Scale

- 4 = exemplary
- 3 = competent
- 2 = needs improvement
- 1 = poor

In the fall of 2011 history faculty adopted procedures to assess the research, analytical and writing skills of undergraduates who had completed upper-level courses in our department. The goal was to determine whether our students were mastering the skills necessary for practicing history, and which particular skills we needed to teach more effectively. To implement the rubric in the next academic year, we will require that each spring semester all instructors teaching advanced 300-level seminars submit evaluations of the final research papers written by history majors in their courses.