

Major Field Assessment Plan
M.A. History

The Strategic Mission of Southeastern Louisiana University is to lead the educational, economic, and cultural development of southeast Louisiana.

The purposes of the Department of History and Political Science are to (1) increase the students' knowledge, train them in proper scholarly methods of research and writing, and prepare them for more effective teaching and for further graduate study, and (2) instruct students in the study of the past.

The purposes of the Master of Arts in History program are to (1) train students for careers in school teaching, government service, and business, and (2) prepare students for doctoral studies in History.

Goal 1

Students completing the M.A. in History will have a broad knowledge of the field of History.

A. Expected Outcome

Students completing the M.A. in History program will demonstrate familiarity with the major personalities, events, trends, and institutions in American, British, and European History, including an understanding of the interaction and interconnection of political, constitutional, military, economic, social, cultural, and religious history, as well as an appreciation of the role played by women and minorities.

Assessment

- a. Students in the M.A. in History program must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on all coursework, with no grade lower than a C. All students take the following required courses in American, British, and European History.
 1. History 605: Seminar in American History to 1800
 2. History 606: Seminar in American History 1800-1900
 3. History 607: Seminar in American History since 1900
 4. History 625: Seminar in British History
 5. History 626: Seminar in European History to 1500
 6. History 627: Seminar In European History since 1500
 7. History 630: Seminar in the History of Western Thought

b. Assessment

Comprehensive Examination. Students in the M.A. in History program must satisfactorily complete a written and oral Comprehensive Examination, based on all graduate coursework. The written portion of the exam (10 hours) will consist of mandatory questions from all faculty members with whom students have done coursework. The oral portion of the exam (2 hours) will be held only after students have passed the written portion. The panel of examiners for the oral portion will include all members of the graduate faculty. Students who fail any part of the Comprehensive Examination must retake that part within one year of the original exam and satisfactorily complete it or face dismissal from the program. Students who fail the Comprehensive Examination will be dismissed from the program. Students must pass at least 80% of the written questions and receive a passing vote from at least 80% of the panel for the oral examination.

B. Expected Outcome

Students completing the M.A. in History program will demonstrate familiarity with the major personalities, events, trends, and institutions in the areas of History covered in their elective coursework, including an understanding of the interaction and interconnection of political, constitutional, military, economic, social, cultural, and religious history, as well as an appreciation of the role played by women and minorities.

Assessment

a. Students in the M.A. in History program must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on all coursework, with no grade lower than a C. All students take the following required courses in American, British, and European History. Students in the Thesis Option must complete 12 additional hours from the courses listed below, including 6 hours of History 770. This may include 6 hours in Political Science or Philosophy.

1. History 602: Readings
2. History 610: Seminar in Southern History
3. History 611: Seminar in Louisiana History
4. History 621: Independent Study
5. History 698: Selected Topics in History
6. History 770: Thesis
7. Political Science 500 or 600 level courses (no more than 6 hours)
8. Philosophy 500 level courses (no more than 6 hours)

Students in the Non-Thesis Option must take 12 additional hours from the courses listed below. This may include 6 hours in Political Science or Philosophy.

1. History 602: Readings
2. History 610: Seminar in Southern History
3. History 611: Seminar in Louisiana History
4. History 621: Independent Study

5. History 655: Seminar in History and Government for Teachers
6. History 698: Selected Topics in History
7. Political Science 500 or 600 level courses (no more than 6 hours)
8. Philosophy 500 level courses (no more than 6 hours)

b. Assessment

Comprehensive Examination. (see above, Goal 1, A).

C. Expected Outcome

History majors will express satisfaction with the quality of instruction and the overall learning environment provided by the Department of History and Political Science.

Assessment

Southeastern Louisiana University Exit Survey

Goal 2

Students completing the M.A. in History will demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary for engaging in professional scholarship.

A. Expected Outcome

Students completing the M.A. in History will have the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct scholarly research in archives, libraries, museums, via the internet, and through other means; to perform critical analysis of both primary and secondary sources; and to write and present scholarly papers in a professional manner.

Assessment

- a. Students in the M.A. in History program must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on all coursework, with no grade lower than a C. All students take the following required course: History 600: Historical Research All other required and elective courses in the M.A. in History program require thousands of pages of reading, multiple written assignments, and multiple oral presentations.

b. Assessment

Comprehensive Examination. (see above, Goal 1, A).

B. Expected Outcome

Students completing the M.A. in History will have experience of the vigorous scholarly exchange that occurs at professional meetings.

Assessment

a. All students in the M.A. in History program are required to attend a monthly Works-in-Progress Seminar at which faculty, graduate students, and visiting scholars present the results of ongoing research for books, articles, or M.A. theses. This promotes a greater sense of community among faculty and students, allows participants to present their own work in a congenial atmosphere and benefit from their colleagues' constructive criticism, and gives students experience with the scholarly give-and-take that occurs at professional conferences and in thesis defenses.

b. Assessment

All students in the M.A. in History program have the opportunity (though they are not required) to attend professional conferences and/or present papers at such conferences.

C. Expected Outcome

All students in the Thesis Option will present a defensible thesis.

Assessment

Students in the Thesis Option must defend their theses before a forum of graduate faculty and graduate students. Before being recommended for graduation, students must receive approval for their theses from the Department Head, Graduate Coordinator, Major Professor, and Thesis Committee members, who may solicit advice from other members of the graduate faculty. The thesis must conform to the format of the most recent edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

Goal 3

History majors will be prepared for further graduate study and/or a variety of professions and vocations.

A. Expected Outcome

At least 50% of students completing the M.A. in History program will be accepted to doctoral programs or other additional graduate study (including law school) or will be employed in a profession that utilizes the knowledge and skills acquired in the M.A. in History program within six months after graduation.

Assessment

The Department of History and Political Science maintains relevant records.