

2009-10 Program Assessment Update

Department & Program: History
submitted by: J. Williams Youngs

As one part of ongoing program assessment at Eastern Washington University, each department is asked to report on assessment results for *each* program for *at least one* Student Learning Outcome this year. Use this electronic file to report on your program assessment for AY 2009-10, and please submit it to both your Dean and to Academic Affairs (SHW 220) by Nov. 1, 2010. The following definitions explain the assessment information you'll enter in the table below:

1. **Student Learning Outcome:** The student performance or learning objective as published either in the catalog, the AIEA assessment data portal, or elsewhere in your department literature.
2. **Strategy or method of measurement:** Mode and process through which student performance data was gathered. Examples: embedded test questions in a course or courses, portfolios, in-class activities, standardized test scores, case studies, analysis of written projects, etc. Additional detailed description could describe the use of rubrics, etc. as part of the assessment process.
3. **Observations gathered from data:** The findings and analysis of those findings from the above strategies.
4. **Actions recommended based on observations:** Course (activities or content) or program changes recommended.
5. **Plan and timeline for taking action:** How the recommended actions will be implemented, and in what timeframe.
6. **Overall evaluation of progress on objective:** The extent to which the student learning outcome is still valid and the assessment of it is producing important and meaningful data.

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1. Student Learning Outcome	2. Strategy or method of measurement	3. Observations gathered from data	4. Actions recommended based on observations	5. Plan and timetable for taking action	6. Overall evaluation of progress on objective
<p>Display an ability to do original research in library, archival, and electronic resources</p> <p><i>have been</i></p>	<p>Regular assignments in the Senior Capstone, History 490 – these could be judged for each student's ability to identify the needed resources for their research project.</p>	<p>Students progressed from average ability to set up a research question to doing more complex and demanding research. At first their research efforts on the whole were somewhat random. They found books and articles with varying degrees of relevancy to the topic, but as the quarter progressed they became more proficient at honing in on the most useful sources, and they became more proficient at using finding aids such as <i>America History and Life</i> to discover the key resources. Additionally, they began by citing web resources indiscriminately; during the quarter they learned to identify and correctly cite "authoritative" resources such as the Library of Congress US History site called "American Memory."</p>	<p>We would do more to address some of the problems apparent in student research before they even begin the Senior Capstone. We do have a sequence of core courses leading up to the capstone, as well as many topical courses in history, and they are helpful. But we could do more to address issues such as the proper use of internet sources in the earlier courses. Additionally we could do more to assure that students reach the senior capstone with a good working knowledge of the major finding aids for history. Finally, we could do more to develop a common curriculum across the course that leads into the capstone, "The Historian as Detective." (History 390)</p>	<p>1. Spring, 2011 -- Department discussion of the situation, particularly the idea of cooperation in maximizing the research instruction value of History 390 -- Also test new techniques in 390.</p> <p>2. Academic 2011-12 --Evaluate the usefulness of these techniques in the research preparedness of students entering the Senior Capstone.</p> <p>3. Academic 2011-12 -- Develop our web site with new pages giving research tips and resources. (This will be a resource for our students and faculty.)</p>	<p>This objective has been and will continue to be useful in helping us meet a fundamental goal of our department. Student research is getting better but can continue to improve.</p>