

Texas A&M International University
Annual Institutional Effectiveness Review (AIER)
(Transition Period)

Date Submitted September 7, 2005

Assessment Period Covered (FY 2005)

Budget Period Covered (FY 2005)

Academic Program/AES Unit Master of Arts in History

Person Preparing Review Dr. Deborah Blackwell

Provide summary of the last cycle's use of results and changes implemented.

During the FY 2004 cycle, our assessment indicated the need to develop reconsider the focus of our comprehensive examinations. Discussions among History Faculty have led to a master list of History sources with which all Master's students must be familiar; implementation of this requirement will begin in spring 2006. Continued concerns with student writing proficiency have led to additional emphasis on writing assignments at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Our weaknesses in World History due to faculty resignations led us to argue for the need for an additional faculty line.

Provide summary of budget decisions and their impact on your program/division.

History Faculty recommended the hire of one additional faculty member with specialization in World History to help us meet the needs of our students on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. We were denied this additional hire, leaving us with a persistent gap in our History program that we are unable to bridge.

Section I: Planning and Implementation

Institutional Mission

Texas A&M International University, a Member of The Texas A&M University System, prepares students for leadership roles in their chosen profession in an increasingly complex, culturally diverse state, national, and global society ... Through instruction, faculty and student research, and public service, Texas A&M International University embodies a strategic point of delivery for well-defined programs and services that improve the quality of life for citizens of the border region, the State of Texas, and national and international communities.

Academic Program/Administrative/Educational Support Unit Mission

The Department of Social Sciences enjoys a broad mission in teaching, research, creative activities, and service to our international community. The Master of Arts in History is gives students a variety of opportunities for career growth and intellectual enrichment. The M.A. degree provides additional content training for teachers, preparation for more advanced graduate work to those desiring a Ph.D., and skills to professionals in public service and business. Our M.A. program in History allows for wide-ranging preparation in many content areas as well as

specific guided research through course assignments and the Master's thesis. Students not only learn about the scholarly traditions of History, but also receive practical training in research, writing, and critical thinking skills. Graduates will find that their M.A. degree in History prepares them for new challenges intellectually and professionally.

Identify outcomes and relationship to Strategic Plan

Outcome 1

Students completing the History Master's degree will understand the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of the field of History at a level commensurate with graduate knowledge.

Identify Strategic Plan Goal related to Outcome 1

Goal 2 Academic

Identify Strategic Plan Objective and Strategy related to Outcome 1 (Appendix A – Strategic Goals)

1.7 Establish and pursue student learning outcomes appropriate for each program with systematic assessment and use of results for continuous quality improvement.

Methods of assessment

Graduating History Master's candidates will take a locally-generated comprehensive examination that measures understanding of the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of the field of History commensurate with graduate knowledge. The examination will be team graded by History faculty, using a rubric ranging from 1 (poor) to 4 (excellent). The average score on the examination will not fall below 3 on the rubric. Also, subscales on the comprehensive examination will be scored to determine the outcomes relative to particular areas of History. The average scores on the subscales will not fall below 3 (good) on any subscale.

Frequency of administration

Comprehensive examinations will be administered once every Fall and Spring Semester provided there are eligible candidates.

Criteria/Benchmark

The average overall score on the examination will not fall below 3 on the rubric. Also, the average scores on the subscales will not fall below 3 (good) on any subscale.

Outcome 2

Students completing the Master's program will be able to locate, interpret, and use appropriate available resources for research in History.

Identify Strategic Plan Goal related to Outcome 2

Goal 2 Academic

Identify Strategic Plan Objective and Strategy related to Outcome 2 (Appendix A – Strategic Goals)

1.7 Establish and pursue student learning outcomes appropriate for each program with systematic assessment and use of results for continuous quality improvement.

Methods of assessment

Students in HIST 5380/Historiography will complete a required library research project, to be prepared and graded by a committee of History faculty, that will test their ability to locate, interpret, and use appropriate available sources for research in History. The project will be team graded by History faculty, using a rubric ranging from 1 (poor) to 4 (excellent). The average score on the project will not fall below 3 on the rubric. Subscales will be developed for the Historiography class project that will identify areas of strength and weakness in historical research. The average scores on the subscales will not fall below 3 (good) on any subscale.

Frequency of administration

Every other fall semester, when HIST 5380/Historiography is offered.

Criteria/Benchmark

The average score on the project will not fall below 3 on the rubric. The average scores on the subscales will not fall below 3 (good) on any subscale.

Outcome 3

Students completing the Master’s in History degree will be prepared for further graduate study.

Identify Strategic Plan Goal related to Outcome 3

Goal 2 Academic

Identify Strategic Plan Objective and Strategy related to Outcome 3 (Appendix A – Strategic Goals)

1.7 Establish and pursue student learning outcomes appropriate for each program with systematic assessment and use of results for continuous quality improvement.

Methods of assessment

TAMIU graduates with a Master’s degree in History will be contacted annually to gather acceptance rates in Ph.D. or other graduate programs. Each graduate will be contacted for a total of five years after his/her graduation, or through the completion of his/her graduate degree, whichever is later. At least fifty percent of History M.A. graduates who apply for admission to a Ph.D. or other graduate program will be accepted. Also, TAMIU graduates with a Master’s degree in History will be contacted annually to gather data on successful completion of Ph.D. or other graduate programs. Each graduate will be contacted for a total of five years after his/her graduation, or through the completion of his/her graduate degree, whichever is later. At least 50% of those entering Ph.D. or other graduate programs will successfully complete those programs.

Frequency of administration

At least once per academic year following spring semesters.

Criteria/Benchmark

At least 50% of those applying for admission to further graduate programs will be accepted, and at least 50% of those entering Ph.D. or other graduate programs will successfully complete those programs.

Section II: Analysis of Results

When (term/date) was assessment conducted?

Outcome 1

No eligible candidates in fall 2004 or spring 2005.

Outcome 2

Not conducted; HIST 5380/Historiography not taught either fall 2004 or spring 2005.

Outcome 3

Not conducted Spring 2005.

What were the results attained (raw data)?

Outcome 1

N/A

Outcome 2

N/A

Outcome 3

N/A

Who (specify names) conducted analysis of data?

Outcome 1

N/A

Outcome 2

N/A

Outcome 3

N/A

When were the results and analysis shared? With whom (department chair, supervisor, staff, external stakeholders)? Minutes with data analysis submitted to assessment@tamiu.edu? (Please use Minutes Template located on the Project INTEGRATE web page.)

The results and analysis were embodied in assessment reports and regularly submitted electronically to the University Assessment Committee and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness with copies to the History Faculty, Department Chair, and Department Assessment Coordinator. Hard copies have occasionally been submitted upon request.

Has the assessment documentation (i.e., surveys, rubrics, course exams with embedded questions, etc.) been submitted to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning?

The surveys, rubrics, results reports, and minutes have been maintained in electronic and/or hard copy files by the History Discipline Coordinator. These records are available for inspection whenever the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning needs them.

Use of Results: Indicate what changes, if any, based on the data have been recommended?

Outcome 1

N/A

Outcome 2

N/A

Outcome 3

N/A

Section III: Programmatic Review

What are the implications of the recommended changes?

A specialist in World History needs to be hired. Efforts to improve student writing need to continue and expand.

Will resources be affected by the recommended changes? Yes No

If so, specify the anticipated effect(s) using the chart below:

| Funding | Physical | Other |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New resources required | <input type="checkbox"/> New or reallocated space | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primarily faculty/staff time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation of current funds | | <input type="checkbox"/> University rule/procedure change only |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Enter text here |

Narrative description and justification for request including related strategy (Attach Budget Request 'Form B' and/or 'Form C')

See previously submitted forms.

If funding, physical or other resources were requested, what is the impact of the budget decisions on program/division?

See previously submitted narratives.

In the box below, provide information on the outcomes for the next assessment cycle:

| Outcomes for Next Assessment Cycle |
|--|
| Continuation of present outcome(s) - (Indicate reason for continuation): The present outcomes will continue until a large enough sample is obtained to make the results of the assessment definitive and conclusive, and to allow programmatic changes a chance to influence those results. |
| New Outcome(s) – (List outcomes below): N/A |
| Modification of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for modification): N/A |