

Degree Program
Assessment of Student Learning Plan
Kansas State University

A. College, Department, and Date

College: College of Arts and Sciences
Department: History
Date: December 2009

B. Contact Person

Professor Louise Breen, Chair, Department of History

C. Degree Program

M.A. in History

D. Assessment of Student Learning Three-Year Plan

1. Student Learning Outcome(s)

a. List all of the student learning outcomes for the program

- (1) **Historiographic Skills:** An understanding of the significance of historiography and mastery of the historiographic arguments central to one's individual area(s) of research or teaching.
- (2) **Communications Skills:** The ability to express oneself clearly, accurately, and professionally in both oral and written form.
- (3) **Research Methodology:** The ability to conduct research appropriate to writing an MA thesis, including the ability to recognize the importance of both primary and secondary sources and the ability to conduct appropriate critical analysis of historical evidence.

b. Identify outcomes that will be assessed in the first three years of the plan.

- (1) Historiographic skills.
- (2) Communications skills.
- (3) Research methodology.

Relationship to K-State Student Learning Outcomes

Program SLOs	University-wide SLOs			Program SLO is conceptually different from university SLOs
	Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes and Professional Conduct	
1. Historiographic Skills			X	X
2. Communication Skills		X	X	
3. Research Methodology	X	X		

2. How will the learning outcomes be assessed? What groups will be included in the assessment?

During the thesis defense, all members of the committee will evaluate the individual student's level of competence in each of the three SLOs. The student's level of competence in the written work and in the oral defense will be evaluated separately (see attached rubric). In each of the three SLO categories, each committee member will determine the student's ability level to correspond to one of the following four levels:

1. Deficient
2. Acceptable
3. Very Good
4. Outstanding

Individual committee members may determine a student's competency at different levels. In such cases, the numbers corresponding to the competency level will be averaged.

3. When will these outcomes be assessed? When and in what format will the results of the assessment be discussed?

The outcomes will be assessed during the oral defense of the student's master thesis.

The attached document has been developed as an assessment tool.

4. What is the unit's process for using assessment results to improve student learning?

The data collected from the thesis defense will be reviewed, summarized and compared to set targets set by the Graduate Studies Committee. The summary and data analysis will be presented to the faculty in the spring semester for discussion and development of recommendation and action plans.