History Majors are evaluated on an annual basis. This evaluation takes two forms, direct assessment in the form of a rubric used to analyze a final research paper, 20 to 25 pages in length, submitted in our capstone course History 586 “Advanced Seminar in History. The second form of assessment is indirect and takes the form of an anonymous exit survey. During the 2013-2014 academic year, History faculty assessed Majors across four of our five learning objectives (for more on our student learning objectives see: http://www.k-state.edu/history/assessment/uslo.html).

For the 2013-2014, reporting period 38 History Majors were evaluated from four sections of History 586 (“Advanced Seminar in History”). Analysis of direct assessment rubrics used in History 586 revealed; 28 percent of our majors scored in the “very good” range, 30 percent in the “good” range, 34 percent in the “acceptable range,” and 7 percent in the deficient range. 30 History Majors also completed exit surveys. The surveys conveyed the following information: 90 percent feel confident they can distinguish between primary and secondary sources, 46 percent believe they can use both primary and secondary sources to make historical claims, 30 percent are confident they can find relevant primary and secondary sources and use them effectively in writing a research paper, 70 percent are confident they can locate primary and secondary sources but have some issues with time management and submission of a quality final paper, 60 percent of the students surveyed feel as though their experiences as a history major have improved their writing, 40 percent believe their writing improved somewhat but that they still have difficulties with writing.