

Each year the Department of History evaluates students majoring in history through a direct assessment employing a rubric that evaluates student performance in the completion of a 20- to 25-page research paper assigned in our capstone course, HIST 586 “The Advanced Seminar in History.” At the completion of the course students are also assessed indirectly by means of an anonymous exit survey in which they provide their own evaluation of their proficiency in basic and advanced skills. During the 2021-2022 academic year, history faculty assessed majors across all five of our learning objectives. These Student Learning Objectives may be viewed at: <https://www.k-state.edu/history/assessment/uslo.html>.

The results provided in this report were obtained from the direct assessment of the 25 students who completed one of the three sections of HIST 586 offered in the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters. In the category assessing the ability to distinguish between primary and secondary sources and to demonstrate how they are used to make historical claims, 92% of our students were rated at the “very good” or “good” levels, with no student assessed in the “deficient” level. In the category assessing the ability to recognize that historical questions can be viewed from different perspectives, 100% of the students were rated “very good” or “good”, and 84% of our students were evaluated as “very good” or “good” for their ability to conduct historical research and find primary and secondary resources. Regarding the ability to communicate their understanding of history through clear and effective writing, 84% of our students were rated at the “very good” or “good” levels. Finally, 92% of our students were rated “very good” or “good” in their ability to provide documentation in written work. These results are at or above the norm for the past 5 years, suggesting that the department has been able to meet the ongoing challenges of the Covid pandemic, and also that curricular changes have been having a positive effect.