

**Major Field Assessment Plan
B.A. History**

The Strategic Mission of Southeastern Louisiana University is to lead the educational, economic, and cultural development of southeast Louisiana.

The major objectives of the B.A. in History are to provide students with general humanistic knowledge in the fields of History, Political Science, and Philosophy; to aid them through this knowledge to analyze and interpret problems and achievements of past and present societies; to further their intellectual development through opportunities to think, to speak, and to write logically and analytically; to prepare them to become dynamic citizens who understand the structure, powers, and procedures of national and state governments and have some knowledge of other world governments as well; and to provide specific background training for such professions as law, journalism, government service, and teaching.

Goal 1

History majors will have a broad knowledge of American and World History.

A. Expected Outcome

History majors will have knowledge of American History and British/European History, as well as African, Asian, and/or Latin American History.

Assessment

History majors will earn at least a C average in their major courses (36 hours), which include the following required courses:

- a. 6 hours Western Civilization Survey* - History 101, 102
- b. 6 hours American History Survey - History 201, 202
- c. 3-9 hours American History—Upper Level
History 321, 469, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 482, 485,
487, 488, 489, 492, 493, 495, 496, and/or 498
- d. 6-12 hours Asian and/or Latin American History—Upper Level
History 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449 and/or 498
- e. 6-12 hours British and/or European History—Upper Level*
History 409, 410, 416, 418, 419, 423, 424, 429, 433, 434, 437, 438,
439, 440, 454, 468 and/or 498
- f. 0-3 hours Oral History - History 488
- g. 3 hours Capstone Course (Major Problems in American History) - History 497

*Western Civilization and most upper-level British and European History courses include attention to African History in discussions of imperialism.

B. Expected Outcome

History majors will have the basic knowledge of Philosophy and Political Science necessary to understand the intellectual and institutional foundations of History.

Assessment

History majors will earn a passing grade in the following required courses:

- a. 6 hours Federal, State, and Local Politics Survey - Political Science 201, 202
- b. 3 hours Political Science 400-level
- c. 3 hours Introduction to Philosophy / Great Philosophers - Philosophy 301 or 302
- d. 3 hours Philosophy of History / Intellectual History - Philosophy 315 or 417

History majors may elect to pursue a minor (18 hours) in Philosophy or Political Science.

C. Expected Outcome

History majors will express satisfaction with the quality of instruction and the overall learning environment provided by the Department of History and Political Science.

Assessment

Southeastern Louisiana University Exit Survey

Goal 2

History majors will have the necessary skills to engage in scholarly research and critical analysis of primary and secondary sources.

A. Expected Outcome

History majors will be able to utilize the library resources (both print and electronic) necessary to conduct research in History.

Assessment

At least 80% of History majors will earn a B or better in Library Science 102.

B. Expected Outcome

History majors will have a basic knowledge of social science research methods and statistics, including the use of computers.

Assessment

All History majors will complete Political Science 300.

C. Expected Outcome

History majors will be able to carefully read and critically analyze both primary and secondary sources and to discuss these intelligently both orally and in writing.

Assessment

All 100 and 200-level History and Political Science courses require the use of department-approved texts (which include examples of primary documents) and readers (which include diverse historiographical perspectives). All 300 and 400-level History, Political Science, and Philosophy courses require advanced texts and additional mandatory readings, on which students must be tested; essay exams; term papers, critical book reviews, and/or document analyses; and book discussions and/or presentations by students. History 497, a required capstone course for all History majors, is an Undergraduate Seminar in Major Problems in American History which is conducted like a graduate-level seminar and requires students to read extensively, write multiple critical papers, make multiple oral presentations, and participate in vigorous seminar discussions.

D. Expected Outcome

History majors will acquire thorough knowledge and skill in professional writing and documentation according to the guidelines in the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

Assessment

All written work for 300 and 400-level History, Political Science, and Philosophy courses must meet the minimum standards of good professional writing and—where necessary—utilize proper documentation.

Goal 3

History majors will be prepared for entrance to graduate school and/or a variety of professions and vocations.

A. Expected Outcome

At least 50% of History majors will be accepted to graduate school (including law school) or will be employed in a profession that utilizes the knowledge and skills acquired in the B.A. in History program within six months after graduation.

Assessment

Southeastern Louisiana University Survey of Undergraduate Degree Alumni.

Goal 4

History majors will possess global awareness and a multicultural perspective

A. Expected Outcome

History majors will acquire knowledge of world history, cultures, economies geography, governments, and peoples.

Assessment

History majors will complete the following courses:

- a. 6 hours Western Civilization
- b. 6-12 hours Asian and/or Latin American History—Upper Level
- c. 6-12 hours British and/or European History—Upper Level
- d. 6 hours Economics
- e. 12 hours English (including British and/or World Literature)
- f. 6 hours Geography
- g. 6 hours Philosophy
- h. 3 hours Political Science—Upper Level (may be International Relations)
- i. 6 hours Sociology

History majors may elect to pursue a minor (18 hours) in International Relations.

B. Expected Outcome

History majors will acquire knowledge of a foreign language.

Assessment

History majors will complete 12 hours of a single foreign language.

C. Expected Outcome

History majors will have more opportunity to acquire knowledge of other countries through study abroad.

Assessment

History majors will increase their participation in the Study Abroad Program because of increased encouragement from faculty and more thorough dissemination of information about benefits, scholarships, and other inducements.