

## Annual Assessment Report to the College 2011-12

College: CSBS

Department: History

Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Please submit report to your department chair or program coordinator, the assessment office and to the Associate Dean of your College by September 28, 2012. You may submit a separate report for each program which conducted assessment activities.

Liaison: Donal O'Sullivan

### 1. Overview of Annual Assessment Project(s) (optional)

**1a. Assessment Process Overview:** Provide a brief overview of the assessment plan and process this year.

The Department responded to previous assessment findings that indicated that students writing skills are inadequate by establishing a History Department writing center. At the center, graduate student tutors and some volunteers provide students with assistance in diagnosing and correcting problems with their essay writing.

We continued our review and discussion of assessment practices and decided to step up our efforts to measure our students' learning experience. We revised our plan to include a range of direct and indirect assessment tools, starting from the Fall Semester. These will include direct assessment of written work in upper level classes for majors, direct assessment of the impact of the Department's new writing center on the quality of student writing, and a survey/test of students in our History methods class to establish students baseline skills as they enter upper division work. We also established a Department Assessment Committee to coordinate activities, review results, and make recommendations to the Department.

**2. Student Learning Outcome Assessment Project:** Answer questions according to the individual SLO assessed this year. If you assessed an additional SLO, report in the next chart below.

**2a. Which Student Learning Outcome was measured this year?**

**SLO # Critical Thinking**

**2b. Does this learning outcome align with one of the following University Fundamental Learning Competencies? (check any which apply)**

Critical Thinking X \_\_\_\_\_  
Oral Communication \_\_\_\_\_  
Written Communication X \_\_\_\_\_  
Quantitative Literacy \_\_\_\_\_  
Information Literacy X \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (which?) \_\_\_\_\_

**2c. What direct and indirect instrument(s) were used to measure this SLO?**

Rubric for an assignment

**2d. Describe the assessment design methodology:** For example, was this SLO assessed longitudinally (same students at different points) or was a cross-sectional comparison used (comparing freshmen with seniors)? If so, describe the assessment points used.

Direct assessment of an assignment, student papers utilizing a rubric.

**2e. Assessment Results & Analysis of this SLO:** Provide a summary of how the evidence was analyzed and highlight important findings from collected evidence.

**Our efforts confirmed previous findings that students need more assistance to increase their writing skills, for example in identifying thesis statements and organizing a research paper.**

**2f. Use of Assessment Results of this SLO:** Were assessment results from previous years or from this year used to make program changes in this reporting year?

Type of change:

changes to course content/topics covered \_\_\_\_\_

course sequence \_\_\_\_\_

addition/deletion of courses in program \_\_\_\_\_

describe other academic programmatic changes: *Establishment of Writing Center* \_\_\_\_\_

student support services *additional workshops on written communication* \_\_\_\_\_

revisions to program SLOs \_\_\_\_\_

assessment instruments *In addition to our direct assessment, we plan on collecting data on incoming majors' previous study experience* \_\_\_\_\_

describe other assessment plan changes \_\_\_\_\_

Have any previous changes led to documented improvements in student learning? (describe)

*We are still in the early stages of closing the loop as we will have implemented changes to the way we do assessment.*

Some programs assess multiple SLOs each year. If your program assessed an additional SLO, report the process for that individual SLO below. If you need additional SLO charts, please cut & paste the empty chart as many times as needed. If you did NOT assess another SLO, skip this section.

**3. How do your assessment activities connect with your program's strategic plan and/or 5-yr assessment plan?**

Our Five-Year Plan covers the various SLO's we intend to assess in different courses. Our current discussions focus on improving written communication skills by adding workshops and mentoring students on a one-on-one basis if possible.

**4. Other information, assessment or reflective activities or processes not captured above.**

**5. Has someone in your program completed, submitted or published a manuscript which uses or describes assessment activities in your program? Please provide citation or discuss.**