

QEP Impact Report

To date, the History Department has engaged in a number of initiatives outlined in our Department Quality Enhancement Plan. This report offers a brief summary.

According to the University QEP Outcomes, WCU students are expected to:

1. Integrate information from a variety of contexts.

The History Department expects students to demonstrate proficiency in historical research and writing (History Outcome #2) and to apply critical thinking skills to historical problems (History Outcome #4). Historical research and writing and the examination of historical problems involve the integration of information from multiple sources into a coherent whole and thus directly supports this university goal.

History Outcome #2 Implementations:

- The Sophomore Seminar (HIST 297) provides an introduction to historical research methods.
- Upper-level electives provide opportunities for individual research projects.
- Capstone contracts and senior theses will involve the application of research skills to a significant individual project.

Assessment:

- The Assessment Committee examined Sophomore Seminar research papers and Senior Capstone products to judge levels of proficiency in research and writing. 64% of students wrote papers that demonstrated a sustainable thesis. 45% of students wrote papers that met the expectations of a sustainable thesis, and 18% exceeded expectations.
- The History Department approved a Capstone Contract to move toward implementation and assessment of Capstone Products.

History Outcome #4 Implementations:

- The Sophomore Seminar (HIST 297) will introduce the critical skills distinct to the discipline of history and provide opportunities for individual investigation of historical questions.
- Upper-level electives provide group and individual investigation of historical issues
- Capstone contracts and senior theses involve investigation of historical questions.

Assessment:

- The Sophomore Seminar 64% of students met expectations, 13% exceeded expectations, and 24% failed to meet expectations.
- The History Department is moving toward development of assessment of Causation and Critical Analysis Exercises for evidence of the application of critical thinking skills to historical problems.
- The History Department approved a Capstone Contract to move toward implementation assessment of Capstone Products.