



2015-16 End-of-Year Report Academic Department Success Plan

Department: Social Studies Education

Department Chair: Daniel A. Clark

Person Primarily Responsible for Preparing this Report:
Daniel A. Clark

Please answer the following questions in two or three pages and submit to your Dean by October 3. Your Dean will review and advance to Academic Affairs by October 10¹ and will offer you feedback by Oct. 17. This report will help inform your 2016-2019 Student Success Plan update that will be due to your Dean by Nov. 4.

- 1. Specific accomplishments/achievements this past year (briefly explain using bullet points, noting any changed/adapted):**
 - Enrollment overall seems to have rebounded from its modern low-point (owing to the “teacher wars in Indiana and the budget/hiring issues of 2012-2013). Program revisions from c. 2013 that dropped the required number of specializations for an SSE major from 3 to 2 and the continued success of University College (along with other retention initiatives) no doubt has contributed to both the popularity of our major, solid retention and graduation numbers. After reviewing the numbers on retention, graduation, etc., I think they look pretty decent. Retention has certainly improved at every level.
 - The SSE program continues to employ good advising practices, a freshman “orientation” meeting in October of each year, an audit of students at (or around) 60 hours (the midway point), and just this past year conducted a late student-career audit at (or around) 90 hours, this latter more a part of yearly assessment practice, but with the residual benefit of identifying any late issues. In one case it identified a major potential problem, leading to a much better solution.
- 2. Objective/Actions Not Achieved (briefly explain using bullet points):**
 - I have stated in the last two reports that I intended to begin a social media presence both for current and former students. That has not yet happened.
- 3. Looking ahead, briefly describe changes, additions, or subtractions that need to be made to your goals and/or action steps, including with respect to their linkage to student learning outcomes.**
 - The SSE program will continue the course already set with regard to advising and actions already noted for orientation and auditing of timely passage through the program. An added point of concern since the reduction of required specializations, however, is for advisors to keep an eye on students acquiring enough 300-400 level credit hours, which had never been a problem. Now if the right combination of specializations is selected it could be a major problem that blindsides students late in their academic careers and could impact a timely graduation.
 - As I have stated in previous reports, while we will continue to implement the actions already noted to help our students navigate the program, the bigger concern is the quality of the program. In concert with the Department of History (and as previously noted in past reports) we have taken aggressive steps to protect the integrity and rigor of the History specialization. Such steps might also need to be undertaken in other content areas, particularly in light of sub-par licensing test results in all areas save Government in recent years. While still yet too early to sound a

¹ Note that the Dean will request a refinement to the report if it is not suitably addressing the questions.

general alarm due to recalibration of the tests last year, preliminary results are enough to cause worry and to set the program director to the task of working with some affiliated departments to revamp the courses within the various content specializations.

- 4. Do you see opportunity for this project to work more closely with another department, college, or unit such that greater impact might be possible (*briefly explain*)?**
 - SSE already works closely with the BCOE and University College, but (as noted above) SSE will need to work with Psychology, Earth and Environmental Systems and Sociology representatives in order to recraft those program specializations.

- 5. Is there anything else about your initiative you feel important to detail?**