2017-18 Department Student Success Plan Update
Department of History

Please complete this plan update and submit to your Dean by November 3. Your Dean will offer you feedback by November 17 and advance final version[1] to Academic Affairs by November 21. Previous report and plans can be found at this website: http://irt2.indstate.edu/cms7/sp16/index.cfm/department-plans/.

Person Primarily Responsible for Preparing this Report: Steven Stofferahn, Interim Chairperson

1. **Department goals to facilitate persistence to degree** (include action steps, dates, and person(s) responsible underneath each goal)**:**

    A. Continue to support our newly invigorated student organization for HIST/SSE/AFRI majors, the History Student Association. The officers and faculty advisor have, since reincorporating in March 2017, organized several events geared toward the interests and professional goals of the members. This ongoing initiative builds cohesiveness among the students, provides the officers with valuable leadership opportunities, and aids in the recruitment of new majors and minors. (Primary: Chairperson, Faculty Advisor to History Students Association, Departmental Faculty)

    B. Having now built a comprehensive database on History alumni by fusing information from the Office of Registration and Records and the Alumni Office with our current departmental newsletter mailing list, we were able to ask an unprecedented number of our alumni to participate in a survey that, among other things, focused on their careers. We are beginning to analyze the results so far, with the intention not only of soliciting additional responses, but also (and more importantly) to show current students the broad range of career options open to HIST/SSE/AFRI graduates. Additionally, as our current Juniors and Seniors begin to identify career paths of interest, we aim during the coming year to develop our database so that we can put those students in touch with interested alumni active in those particular fields who are willing to impart career advice. Enriching our alumni contacts will also enable us to highlight their stories on our website and other promotional materials, which should give current students encouragement as they finish out their degrees. (Primary: Chairperson, Consultant)

    C. All of our academic advisors have been encouraged to attend "Master Advisor" trainings and events, in order to stay up to date on current practices and changes in procedures. Since we occasionally bring on new advisors, and the procedures undergo subtle but significant changes over time, this is a continuing goal. (Primary: Academic Advisors, Chairperson)

    D. We are currently processing a significant curriculum change for our Majors and Minors with regard to our main methods course. By breaking HIST 300 into two courses (provisionally numbered HIST 200 and HIST 400), we will move some of the more introductory content earlier in their progress toward the degree, and then the second course can serve as a true culminating experience, where we can also integrate meaningful career readiness content. (Primary: Curriculum Committee, Chairperson)

2. **Department goals to enhance student performance and/or learning outcome achievement[2]** (include action steps, dates, and person(s) responsible for each goal)**:**

    A. The curricular change noted above (HIST 300 → HIST 200 & 400) also has direct bearing on learning outcomes for the Major. Not only is the integration of a culminating experience a recognized "best practice," it is also likely to contribute to a "cohort" feeling of camaraderie among students as they approach graduation. This is currently working its way through the approval process, and we hope to have it fully passed by the end of the year, so as to begin enrolling Sophomores into HIST 200 as early as Fall 2019. (Primary: Curriculum Committee, Chairperson)

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[1] Dean will request a refinement to plan if it is not suitably addressing the questions. Plan will be shared with Trustees.
[2] Department/Program Student Learning Summary Form report may inform what is noted here.

B. We are also keen to continue providing our students with internship opportunities. Our most formal venue for doing so is HIST 404 (Internship), which we are currently able to offer each fall semester, thanks to a teaching arrangement with Library faculty. Our goal is to strengthen that arrangement in order to make sure that History students will be able to have such opportunities for years to come, with internships at both traditional sites (e.g., archives, historical societies, museums, etc.) and non-traditional sites (nursing homes, etc.). There is also the potential to develop a second course on archival administration through a similar arrangement, also in partnership with Library faculty, so we intend to work on that in the coming year. (Primary: Chairperson)

Benchmark Metrics

Metric	2016-17 FTFT-BDS Cohort Actual	2017-18 Target	3 Year Target (2019-20)
Freshmen Retention[3] *(by latest department)*	80% (cohort=5)	68% (ISU avg)	70%
4-Year Grad Rate *(by latest department)*	29% (cohort=17)	30% (ISU avg)	35%
	Source data for 2016-17 actual	**2017-18 Target**	**3 Year Target (2019-20)**
Other Metric #1[4]	*		
Other Metric #2			

* As we transition from HIST 113 to HIST 213, we will be articulating key metrics to monitor with regard to retention and DFW rates. Since that transition is currently underway, this is listed here as a general intent rather than a specific target.

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[3] In a very few cases, such as with departments with very small numbers of majors or who have few or no new freshmen who enroll in their program, this metric and a grad rate may not be applicable. Other appropriate metrics should be used instead (e.g., service course student performance, transfer students, part-time students, etc.).

[4] Departments may wish to also focus on key metrics for sub-populations (e.g., transfer students, distance students, minority students, students at a particular class year or years where bottlenecks/movement out of the major/drop out from ISU appear to be a concern) or metrics such as credit hour productivity or D/F/drop rates. See Blue Reports or Institutional Research for ideas.