

**HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**History Core Competencies**  
**Critical Thinking**  
**2020-2021**

**Learning Outcome:**

Critical Thinking: Students will be able to examine, critique and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions.

**Outcome Measure:**

ETS Proficiency Profile Exam

**Criteria for Success (how do you judge if the students have met your standards):**

75% of the students will be marginal or proficient at Level 2 Reading/Critical Thinking.

**Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):**

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

**Longitudinal Data:**

**Percentage of Students Marginal or Proficient**

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
<b>ETS Proficiency Profile Level 2 Critical Thinking</b>	N/A	N/A	88.9%	80.0%	78.9%	90.9%	57.1%	84.2%	78.9%

**Conclusions Drawn from Data:**

Our HPS students have historically performed well with regard to this learning outcome, as the vast majority of our students are consistently “marginal” or “proficient.”

**Changes to be Made Based on Data:**

None at this time, other than to monitor the longitudinal data.

**Rubric Used**

No rubric. We use the ETS Proficiency Profile test results.

**HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**Core Competencies**  
**Written Communication**  
**2020-2021**

**Learning Outcome:**

Written: Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through written communication.

**Outcome Measure:**

ETS Proficiency Profile Exam

**Criteria for Success (how do you judge if the students have met your standards):**

75% of the students will be marginal or proficient at Level 2 Writing.

**Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):**

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

**Longitudinal Data:**

**Percentage of Students Marginal or Proficient**

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
<b>ETS Proficiency Profile Level 2 Writing</b>	N/A	100.0%	100.0%	80.0%	84.2%	81.8%	78.6%	84.2%	57.9%

**Conclusions Drawn from Data:**

We saw a significant decrease in this written communication score during the 2020-21 school year. This is concerning, since this is a writing-intensive program. Our previous scores were fairly consistent, and we are not sure what caused this drop. We will continue to watch this closely.

**Changes to be Made Based on Data:**

None at this time, but we will continue to watch this closely next year, to see whether this is indicative of a downward trend that would need some remediation.

**Rubric Used**

No rubric. We use the ETS Proficiency Profile test results.

**HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**Core Competencies**

**Quantitative Reasoning  
2020-2021**

**Learning Outcome:**

Quantitative Reasoning: Students will be able to solve problems that are quantitative in nature.

**Outcome Measure:**

ETS Proficiency Profile Exam

**Criteria for Success (how do you judge if the students have met your standards):**

70% of the students will be marginal or proficient at Level 2 Math.

**Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):**

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

**Longitudinal Data:**

**Percentage of Students Marginal or Proficient**

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
<b>ETS Proficiency Profile Level 2 Math</b>	N/A	100.0%	66.7%	80.0%	57.9%	90.9%	67.3%	68.4%	63.2%

**Conclusions Drawn from Data:**

Our HPS students have not hit the benchmark for five of the seven years that we have been collecting data. It is not surprising that our students struggle more in this area than others, since our history program does not have much focus on math. Although history majors do use quantitative reasoning skills to assess information in charts and graphs, that is likely not the kind of quantitative analysis reflected on the ETS exam.

**Changes to be Made Based on Data:**

We will continue to closely monitor the longitudinal data.

**Rubric Used:** No rubric. We use the ETS Proficiency Profile test results.

**HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**History Core Competencies**  
**Oral Communication**  
**2020-2021**

**Learning Outcome:**

Oral Communication: Present and analyze, in an oral presentation, different perspectives on an event from the past.

**Outcome Measure:**

Oral Presentation in HIS 4070: Senior Seminar in History (every fall beginning with fall 2014)

**Criteria for Success:**

Minimum average of 2.75 (out of 4) for each criteria of rubric

**Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (highlight one or more):**

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad and Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning
5. Civic and Global Learning

**Longitudinal Data:**

The Longitudinal Data begins in 2013-2014, because we wrote new Program Learning Outcomes in 2013 to align with the Core Competencies. There is a different set of data to match different learning outcomes for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

**Oral Communication Value Rubric - Average Student Scores:**

Course	Semester	N	Organization	Language	Delivery	Supporting Material	Central Message	Average Score
HIS 470	Fall 2013	10	3.70	3.20	3.30	3.40	3.30	3.38
HIS 470	Fall 2014	4	3.25	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50	3.30
HIS 470	Fall 2015	8	3.75	3.50	3.13	3.50	3.50	3.48
HIS 470	Fall 2016	10	3.70	3.20	3.20	3.40	3.30	3.36
HIS 470	Fall 2017	3	3.67	3.00	3.33	3.33	4.00	3.47
HIS 470	Fall 2018	10	4.00	3.80	3.60	3.30	3.90	3.72
HIS4070	Fall 2019	9	3.89	3.67	3.67	3.89	4.00	3.82
HIS4070	Fall 2020	4	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00

**Conclusions Drawn from Data:**

We are pleased to see that the many oral presentations our students make throughout our program are succeeding in producing such strong results. Our students are exceeding the minimum average for this outcome by a large margin. We will continue our efforts on this outcome.

**Changes to be Made Based on Data:**

Our students generally do very well with formal oral presentations, and that is probably because they do them in almost every class, as well as at professional conferences. This is one of our strengths, and we will continue to emphasize it. We will do this in courses throughout the History Program, with the culminating presentation taking place in the Senior Seminar.

**Rubric Used:**

AAC&U Oral Communication Value Rubric: <https://www.aacu.org/value/rubrics/oral-communication>

**HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**History Core Competencies**  
**Information Literacy**  
**2020-2021**

**Learning Outcome:**

Find appropriate materials online, in a library or in the community and know how to cite them.

**Outcome Measure:**

Research paper in HIS 4070: Senior Seminar in History (every fall beginning with fall 2014)

**Criteria for Success:**

Minimum average of 2.75 (out of 4) for each criteria of rubric

**Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (highlight one or more):**

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad and Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning
5. Civic and Global Learning

**Longitudinal Data:**

The Longitudinal Data begins in 2013-2014, because we wrote new Program Learning Outcomes in 2013 to align with the Core Competencies. There is a different set of data to match different learning outcomes for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

**Information Literacy Value Rubric - Average Student Scores:**

Course	Semester	N	Determine Extent of Information Needed	Access Needed Information	Evaluate Information & Sources	Use Information for a Purpose	Access/Use Ethically & Legally	Aver age
HIS 470	Fall 2013	12	2.96	2.91	2.77	3.08	2.87	2.92
HIS 470	Fall 2014	4	3.25	3.75	3.50	3.25	4.00	3.55
HIS 470	Fall 2015	8	3.75	3.13	3.13	3.63	3.38	3.40
HIS 470	Fall 2016	10	3.40	2.90	2.80	2.80	3.20	3.02
HIS 470	Fall 2017	6	3.67	4.00	3.50	3.50	3.67	3.67
HIS 470	Fall 2018	10	3.90	3.50	3.60	3.60	3.90	3.70
HIS4070	Fall 2019	9	3.78	3.89	3.78	3.78	3.89	3.72
HIS4070	Fall 2020	4	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.75	4.00	3.95

**Conclusions Drawn from Data:**

Student averages were higher than ever in Fall 2020 (but were also based on a relatively small sample size). This reflects our strong emphasis on the crucial skill of information literacy and the high-quality research expected of history majors.

**Changes to be Made Based on Data:**

The strong averages in all categories of information literacy reflects the emphasis on this throughout our History Program, including the intensive work on revising a research paper in the Senior Seminar. We will continue to emphasize the importance of information literacy and develop the necessary skills throughout our program.

**Rubric Used:** AAC&U Information Literacy Value Rubric.