

Department of History, Political Science, Philosophy, and Geography
History Program
Assessment Plan

This assessment plan defines the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and how they are assessed for the History Program of the Department of History, Political Science, Philosophy, and Geography, College of the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS), Colorado State University Pueblo (CSUP). It applies to the Bachelor of Arts in History, the Bachelor of Science in History, the Bachelor of Science in History with an Emphasis in Secondary Education, and the History Minor.

The SLOs are drawn from two main sources: The American Historical Association's History Tuning Project, specifically the 2016 History Discipline Core; and CSUP's Vision 2028, specifically the Guiding Principles. By drawing on and combining these two sources, the SLOs ensure that students in the History Program both meet the highest professional standards and fulfill the mission of CSUP.

The SLOs for the History Program are:

1. Demonstrate literacy, analytical reading, and effective writing skills in general, and for historical content [AHA 5a, 5b; CSUP Develop People, Transform Learning]
2. Demonstrate understanding of the history of historical writing, and demonstrate the ability to apply the principles and theories that support historical writing [AHA 2a, 4a, 4b; CSUP Cultivate Entrepreneurship]
3. Demonstrate knowledge of specific times and locations studied, and knowledge of the complexities of the past and the diversity of human cultures in those times and places [AHA 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2d, 3b; CSUP Engage Place, Build Knowledge]
4. Apply the concepts of historical thinking, for example, in evaluating change over time [AHA 3a, 6a, 4c; CSUP Live Sustainably, Impact Society]
5. Demonstrate skills in historical research, including historical analysis and interpretation [AHA 2b, 2c, 3c, 3d, 6b; CSUP Empower Students]

The SLOs will be assessed on a rotating schedule. During odd-numbered years, odd numbered SLOs will be assessed. During even-numbered years, even-numbered SLOs will be assessed.

At the conclusion of each academic year, the Program Coordinator will assemble an Assessment Committee consisting of not less than 2/3 of the tenured or tenure-track historians in the Department. (If less than 2/3 of the tenured or tenure-track faculty participate in the assessment, the Coordinator must provide an explanation as part of the assessment report.) With the approval of the tenured and tenure-track faculty members, the Coordinator may invite adjunct faculty, visiting professors, faculty fellows, or others who have performed teaching duties within the program to participate.

SLOs will be assessed through a rubric-based evaluation of a representative sample of portfolios of History Majors and History Minors. The Assessment Committee will review the individual rubrics, draw conclusions, and make recommendations for program improvements to the Coordinator. The Coordinator, in cooperation with the Department Chair, will carry out improvements as required. If a particular SLO has been previously assessed, the committee will also determine if previously implemented improvements have had the desired effect, and will recommend continuation or modification as required.

This assessment plan will be reviewed and approved by the tenured and tenure-track history faculty at a minimum every four years. Review will also be automatically triggered by any of the following events:

1. Super-session or substantial modification of the 2016 History Discipline Core
2. Super-session or substantial modification of Vision 2028
3. Super-session or substantial modification of the CSUP Strategic Plan
4. Super-session or substantial modification of the CHASS Strategic Plan
5. Super-session or substantial modification Department of History, Political Science, Philosophy, and Geography Strategic Plan
6. Recommendation of 2/3 of the tenured or tenure-track history faculty

This assessment plan will be implemented in overlapping phases:

1. Phase 1 (complete September NLT 2021) - review draft assessment plan, obtain feedback from CSUP assessment experts, and obtain approval by a vote of a majority of the tenured and tenure-track history faculty
2. Phase 2 (complete December NLT 2021) - train all faculty on assessment plan and their responsibilities under it
3. Phase 3 (complete April NLT 2022) - implement portfolios for all History Majors and Minors
4. Phase 4 (complete June NLT 2022) - design rubrics for assessment of SLOs

Upon full implementation (June 2022), the History Program will begin providing assessment reports through the Department and CHASS to the Provost's Office.

References: <https://www.csupueblo.edu/vision2028/index.html>
<https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/tuning-the-history-discipline/2016-history-discipline-core>