

Provost's Comprehensive Program Review Report

Institution: Middle Georgia State University

Academic Program Name: B.A. in History

CIP Code: 540101

College or School: School of Arts and Letters

Department: History

Date of Last Internal Review: 6/13/2016

Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement): Increase graduation rates by 25%. Evaluate plan to expand upper-division classes to Cochran. Create a plan to diversify faculty, student profile, and program.

Current Date: 6/10/2021

Provost Response: Academic Affairs acknowledges the documented value of the B.A. in History. History's contributions to the core curriculum and its commitment to program improvement and academic innovation over the years is evident. Improvements to the learning environment and demonstrations of adaptability to market demands is promising for the program. Strategies to foster retention and improve the curriculum are noted and will be monitored for impact.

Program Quality and Productivity Improvement Plan: Following a review of the Chairs Report, the IERB comments, and the Deans appraisal, the Office of the Provost concurs with the findings and supports the documented plan of action.

Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.

Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

Program PARTIALLY MEETS Institution's Criteria and will be re-evaluated in _____.

Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria

Program will be placed on a monitoring status.

Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.

Program will be deactivated.

Program will be voluntarily terminated.

Other (identify/add text):

Provost or VPAA Signature:



Date:

7/8/2020

Comprehensive Program Review Report

Academic Program Name: BA History

College or School: School of Arts & Letters

Department: History

Date of Last Internal Review: June 13, 2016

Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement, if applicable):
Satisfactory

Current Date: 4/6/21

Executive Summary: *Provide a summary related to the academic program's quality, viability, and productivity of efforts in teaching and learning, scholarship, and service as appropriate to the institution's mission. If this is the initial review of the program address how the program is/is not meeting the enrollment and credit hour projects contained in the original program proposal. Include a statement of plans for action based on the overall categorical summation contained in the next section.*

The BA in History is a viable, high quality academic program with enrollment that has grown 28% since it came under the auspices of the new School of Arts & Letters in 2019. Recent curricular innovations -- including a common core, two career-ready concentrations, and more open electives -- make the program more attractive to students and highly navigable, which should lead to continued enrollment growth and higher graduation yields. Continued development of professional pathways to include internships, education options, and pre-professional credentials will help graduates secure jobs in the future.

Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

X Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

X Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.

Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria

- Program will be placed on a monitoring status.
- Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.
- Program will be deactivated.
- Program will be voluntarily terminated.
- Other (identify/add text):

Academic Dean Signature: *Mary McCartin Wean*
Dean of Graduate Studies Signature (when applicable):

Date: 4/16/21

IERB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Program Reviewed: BA History

<p>Contextual Notes: Summarize any demographic or environmental factors described in the introduction that might significantly impact assessment of the program</p> <p>The History BA program has endured a gradual decrease in face-to-face enrollment from its peak enrollment in Fall 2016. During the same time frame, online enrollment showed slight improvements in enrollment year after year until Fall of 2020. From fall 2019 to Fall 2020, online enrollment for BA in History jumped from 7 to 25 students. This dramatic, sudden increase could be contributed to changes enacted by the department, offering upper-level courses in a fully online format. The increase in online enrollment may also have been partially impacted by the COVID outbreak. The increase in online students for the program was able to balance out the decrease in face to face enrollment, leading to an overall 5 year slightly negative growth of -.49%</p>

Area of Focus	Exemplary Area	Satisfactory Area	Area of Concern	No Evidence	Notes
Enrollment	<i>This program has significantly positive enrollment trends and robust credit hour production</i>	<i>This program has stable or moderately positive enrollment trends and healthy credit hour production</i>	<i>This program has negative enrollment trends and weak credit hour production</i>		Enrollment on campus shows a steady decline over the past five years. But enrollment slightly bounced back in Fall 2020. 5-year growth for programs by locations is -5.71% for Macon and -2.74% for Cochran. The overall 5 year growth regardless of campus is -0.49%. Enrollment in the online program shows a significant increase.
Graduation Trends USG benchmark: Bachelor's Degrees: 10 graduates/year Graduate, Associate's or Certificates: 5 graduates/year Programs falling under these benchmarks are	<i>Three year rolling average greatly exceeds USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred</i>	<i>Three year rolling average meets or exceeds USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred</i>	<i>Three year rolling average does not meet USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred; the program is "low performing" by USG definition</i>		Graduation rate meets the minimum requirement for the USG benchmark with the exception of FY 2017. The overall trend appears to show a mild decline but overall stable.

IERB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

designated as "low performing"					
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Program Strengths of Note:

Program has increased fully online offerings allowing students more flexibility in scheduling. Changes to the curriculum allow for a broader selection of electives speeding the process to graduation for students.

Areas of Serious Concern:

Enrollment in face to face courses on campus appears to be showing a steady decline. There has not been a robust growth in the program. Limited data on job opportunities for graduates. The outlook of careers for historians does not seem very promising. Are students graduating from this program "ready to work"?

Other Comments: Needs data to support job market opportunities for students. What is the demand and growth in that area? The fields of Public History and Digital History are growing in demand. There is need to explore the possibilities of creating programs in such areas of demand.

IERB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation



Comprehensive Program Review

FY 2020 – 2021

Institution: Middle Georgia State University

Academic Program: BA History

College or School: School of Arts and Letters

Department: History

CIP Code: 540101

Date of Last Internal Review: June 13, 2016

Faculty Completing Report: Matthew Zimmerman

Current Date:

5 Year Enrollment by Campus and Graduation Trends

Enrollment: 5 year growth for programs by locations is -5.71% for Macon and -2.74% for Cochran. The overall 5 year growth regardless of campus is -0.49%.

Campus	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	5 YR Growth	Fall 2016 compared to Fall 2020 only
Macon	62	53	53	46	49	-5.71%	-21%
Cochran	19	18	20	13	17	-2.74%	-11%
Warner Robins	13	7	8	10	8		
Dublin	5	2	1	3	2		
Eastman	0	0	0	0	0		
Online	4	4	6	7	25		
Off Campus	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	103	84	88	79	101	-0.49%	-2%

Graduates

- For data consistency, the fiscal year is in which the degree was awarded. For example, fiscal year 2019 includes degrees conferred in Summer 2018, Fall 2018, and Spring 2019.

FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	5 YR Growth	FY16 compared to FY20 only
11	8	11	14	11	0.00%	0%

Include a narrative that discusses:

- Program purpose and mission
- Align of program mission with department, school, and institutional mission
- Program age, tracks, concentrations, etc
- Accreditation information/status
- Method(s) of delivery
- Changes since last review
- Benchmarks of progress
- Plans for action
- Shifting trends and market forces that may impact program demand

Instructions:

- *A quality CPR Self-Study Document requires effective communication that*
 - *is clear to any reader, requires no interpretation, thoroughly connects the dots, flows logically across all areas.*
- For the program self study *be sure to address all the required elements referenced in the template and evaluated in the hierarchy of rubrics.*
- Submit a document that is at *minimum* three pages in length.

PURPOSE AND MISSION

The Department of History mentors students pursuing studies in a history baccalaureate degree. The history program at Middle Georgia State University prepares students to meet the growing demand for research and analytical skills in Central Georgia and beyond.

The Bachelor of Arts in History is aimed at students interested in careers in the arts, law, government and community service, historical interpretation and museum work, as well as graduate study. The Bachelor of Arts in History includes significant study in historical research methodology as well as both U.S. and World history. Students in history undertake a program of study that provides them with the skills, knowledge and training necessary to be effective in the 21st century workforce.

This program’s purpose aligns well with the mission of the Department of History to “provide quality instruction in the fields of history at both introductory and advanced levels.” It aligns

with the School of Arts and Letters' mission to prepare "intellectually agile citizens to serve our communities and the creative economy of Georgia." Finally, it clearly aligns with the institutional mission to educate and graduate "inspired, lifelong learners whose scholarship and careers enhance the region through professional leadership, innovative partnerships, and community engagement."

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Macon State College began offering the Bachelor of Arts in History in 2007. Prior to consolidation, Middle Georgia College did not offer the degree. The program, which is housed in the School of Arts and Letters within the Department of History, offers students the opportunity to pursue a traditional History degree or to select from a choice of two concentrations within the degree.

The "Secondary Education" concentration provides students the opportunity to earn both the History B.A. and teacher certification in secondary education. This track provides prospective teachers a combination of content knowledge and pedagogical training to address the need for well-qualified History teachers in the region's high schools. The Secondary Education Concentration requires students to complete a set of required History coursework aimed at promoting success on the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE), and then complete the course requirements for teacher certification.

The "Documentary Film" concentration offers a pathway for students to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to enter the region's rapidly-growing film industry. This concentration requires students to complete required coursework for the History B.A. and then to engage in coursework in areas related to film-making. The film coursework can be completed at MGA or in conjunction with the Georgia Film Academy.

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION/STATUS

The History B.A. program does not require accreditation beyond the SACS/COC institutional accreditation earned by Middle Georgia State University.

METHOD(S) OF DELIVERY

The History B.A. is delivered on both the Macon and Cochran campuses, primarily in a face-to-face format. Beginning in Fall 2020, the program began offering some of its upper-level

courses in a fully online format. Typically, two upper-level History courses are offered online each semester, with the remaining majority of courses being offered face-to-face.

CHANGES SINCE LAST REVIEW

The History B.A. has undergone significant change since the last review. At the last review, in 2016, the program existed only on the Macon campus. Beginning Spring 2017, in order to meet the needs of students, broaden the reach of the program, and use the expertise of all the History faculty, we started offering the degree on the Cochran campus.

In an effort to foster retention, progression, and graduation, the History Department Curriculum Committee initiated a revised History B.A. curriculum. Beginning in Fall 2020, the new curriculum requires all History majors to complete the following courses, in addition to a Research Seminar in either US or non-US History:

- HIST 3020: Religions in World History**
- HIST 3480: Europe in the 19th Century**
- HIST 3930: History of Georgia**
- HIST 4010: Atlantic World**
- HIST 4020: Technology, Environment, and Empire**
- HIST 4030: History of Colonization**
- HIST 4700: Multicultural America**

This revised curriculum also allowed for an increase in the number of open electives, which further promotes progression and graduation. As a key part of the new curriculum, the Department of History added two new concentrations – Secondary Education and Documentary Film. This redesign of the History B.A. curriculum focused on offering students a wide range of course while also addressing issues related to ease of scheduling and greater predictability in progression.

BENCHMARKS OF PROGRESS

The primary benchmark of progress for the History B.A. program has been and will continue to be enrollment.

In enrollment, the program has remained relatively stable since 2016. The number of program graduates has held consistent through the last five years. Between 2016 and 2020, the overall enrollment in the History B.A. declined by 2%, which translates to a loss of two students (from 103 students to 101). While any decline in enrollment is upsetting, the History B.A. program is rallying and poised for growth.

What is most telling, however, is the recent growth in the program. Following a Fall 2019 lull in enrollment, the program has quickly rebounded to nearly match its Fall 2016 figure. Put into a wider perspective, this growth is remarkable. A recent study by the American Historical Association found a 6.38% decline in the number of History majors at Baccalaureate institutions nationwide from 2019 to 2020. During that same time, the History B.A. program at MGA has increased its enrollment by about 28%. Given the national trends currently facing History programs, the data regarding MGA's program demonstrate a promising trajectory.

Students seeking to become History teachers at the secondary level will now be required to earn a History B.A. Bringing this cohort of students into the program will certainly assist in continued increasing enrollment.

PLANS FOR ACTION

The Department of History has two major plans of action to address its current enrollment data. First, there is clearly a trend toward online demand. The most noticeable area of growth in the program is in online students. The program has seen some initial success in online upper-level course offerings, with such courses outpacing face-to-face courses in enrollment. While the Department does not seek to transform the program into a fully-online one, the further development of online upper-level courses will improve our ability to offer the program on multiple campuses, promote increased flexibility, improve progression and graduation, and foster enrollment.

Second, with the addition of two new concentrations and a revised curriculum, the History B.A. has the potential for further growth. The more clearly structured curriculum will make the scheduling of classes more predictable so that students may clearly plan their courses and therefore progress through the program more easily. Developing that structure will, moving forward, enhance retention, progression, and graduation. The two new concentrations will allow the Department to attract new students into the program. Promoting these concentrations will expand the reach of the program generally and further enhance its viability.

In addition, the Department of History is planning to hold two series of open forums with students. The first will focus on History majors and will discuss the essentials for success in the program and campus resources available to promote success (Student Success Center, Writing Center, etc.). This forum will also cover the History curriculum and the importance of advising, with the goal of encouraging progression and timely graduation. The second series will be open to all MGA students and will be held in cooperation with the Center for Career and Leadership Development to discuss opportunities for History majors in the job market. This forum is designed to encourage further enrollment in the major and assist in the retention of current majors.

SHIFTING TRENDS AND MARKET FORCES THAT MAY IMPACT PROGRAM DEMAND

Some of the more rapidly growing areas in the study of History are in the fields of Public History and Digital History. While a traditional History B.A. remains valuable in providing students the skills needed to meet the demands of an increasingly global and diversified job market, the areas of Public and Digital History provide students with a direct route into a profession. As museums and archives move further into technology-based management and presentation, training History students to enter this market is vital.

If the MGA History B.A. program is to keep pace with this growing market and meet this rising demand for students trained in Public or Digital History, it must develop either a concentration in one of those areas or a graduate program that offers a certification or M.A. The middle Georgia region has the historical institutions (museums, foundations, historical societies, etc.) that would make such a program not only feasible, but also in high demand.

This growing area may not have an impact on the demand for a traditional History B.A., it does represent a key area of development into MGA can venture and reap significant rewards. The pace of development in these areas is likely to quicken in the coming years, and therefore represents an opportunity for MGA to be part of the progress.

