Graduate Program Report
Master’s Degree program
American Studies
September 1, 2014  David Cherry

Program Learning Outcomes

Master’s degree program

1. Conduct research appropriate to the discipline
2. Demonstrate mastery of subject content knowledge and methodologies
3. Demonstrate effective written communication
4. Demonstrate effective oral communication
5. Demonstrate ability to conduct scholarly activities in an ethical manner

Identified Data Sources

Master’s Degree program – coursework option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Source</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Culminating research paper and presentation (AMST 501/502)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written and oral comprehensive exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics training in responsible conduct of research (CITI)</td>
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Master’s Degree program – thesis option

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<tr>
<td>Written and oral comprehensive exams</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis defense</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics training in responsible conduct of research (CITI)</td>
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Results

In the period 2012-14, there were five (5) students in the Master’s program. All are still in the program. Two (2) are doing the all course work option; the other three (3) are doing the Thesis option.

The two (2) students who are doing the all coursework option are:
Ryan Matzinger
Jasmin Steiner

Matzinger’s grade in AMST 501 was A-; he has not yet taken AMST 502. Steiner’s grade in AMST 501 was A; she is currently completing AMST 592, Independent Study, in lieu of AMST 502.

Neither student has yet attempted the written and oral comprehensive exams.

The three (3) students who are doing the thesis option are:
Pamela Boyer
Daniel Hansen
Matt Smith

None of the three students has yet attempted the written and oral comprehensive exams or defended their theses.

Until now, there was no formal training in research ethics required in the Master’s degree program. All students will now be required to complete CITI research ethics training. The five students in the program are being instructed to complete the training. Results will be tabulated and included in the next assessment report, in September, 2016.

Assessment

Based on a very limited set of data, it appears that the program outcomes are being met. The faculty who are working with graduate students in the program will be given the results and will determine if changes to the program are indicated.