Graduate Program Assessment Plan
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

Doctoral degree program

1. Produce and defend an original, significant contribution to knowledge 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

Data Source	Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
Culminating research paper and presentation (AMST 501/502)	X		X		
Written and oral comprehensive exams		X		X	
Ethics training in responsible conduct of research (CITI)					X

Master's Degree program – thesis option

Data Source	Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
Written and oral comprehensive exams		X	X	X	
Thesis defense	X		X	X	
Ethics training in responsible conduct of research (CITI)					X

Doctoral program

Data Source	Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
Dissertation defense	X		X		
Written and oral comprehensive exams		X		X	
Ethics training in responsible conduct of research (CITI)					X

Response Threshold

Master's Degree program – coursework option

At least 90% of students will demonstrate the ability to conduct research appropriate to the discipline, as measured by grades of B or better in AMST 501/502

At least 90% of students will pass their written and oral comprehensive exams on their first attempt

100% of students will complete CITI research ethics training

Master's Degree program – thesis option

At least 95% of students will successfully defend their thesis

At least 90% of students will pass their written and oral comprehensive exams on their first attempt

100% of students will complete CITI research ethics training

Doctoral program

At least 95% of students will successfully defend their dissertations

At least 90% of students will pass their written and oral comprehensive exams on their first attempt

100% of students will complete CITI research ethics training

Schedule of Assessment

- An assessment report for the Master's degree program will be submitted in September of even-numbered years, beginning in September, 2014.
- An assessment report for the Doctoral degree program will be submitted in September of odd-numbered years, beginning in September, 2015.

Process for Analyzing the Data

For Master's students completing the all coursework option, the program Director will tabulate grades from students completing AMST 501/502, the percentage of students who pass written and oral comprehensive exams, and the percentage of students who complete CITI research ethics training.

For Master's students completing the thesis option, the program Director will tabulate the percentage of students who successfully defend their theses, the percentage of students who pass written and oral comprehensive exams, and the percentage of students who complete CITI research ethics training.

For Doctoral students, the program Director will tabulate the percentage of students who successfully defend their dissertations, the percentage of students who pass written and oral comprehensive exams, and the percentage of students who complete CITI research ethics training.

The Director will write up a brief summary of the assessment results and this will be presented to the faculty members working with graduate students. The faculty will review the assessment results and make decisions about how to respond.

A summary of the year's assessment activities and faculty response will be reported to the CLS Dean's office and to the Provost's office.