

CAS History AY20 Expedited Program Review Revised

Submission date: 2/7/2020

Program/s in this review: History B.A _____

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): N/A _____

Campuses where the program is delivered: Anchorage, Mat-Su College, Kenai Peninsula College, Kachemak Bay Campus, Kodiak, Prince William Sound Community College, Chugiak- Eagle River Campus

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Three key findings in the Review are:

- A. History Department generates about 21% more Tuition Revenue per FTEF than the CAS average.
- B. History Department's instructional cost is 11% lower than the CAS average.
- C. 89% of History graduates receive job placements in Year 1 (Alaska State Department of Labor)

1. Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role (700 words or less)

Relevancy of the Program:

The study of history matters because it shows how the choices we make within human society shape the world and ourselves. History advances civic literacy and promotes independent, fact-based analysis of vexing and complicated issues related to public policy and social relations. The History major is an important component of UAA's academic program. The program is a revenue generator for the university. It graduates a steady stream of History majors every year. It plays an essential role in the delivery of courses to non-majors. History faculty are deeply committed to student success and are well respected in their field. Their research and service activities are renowned across Alaska, the nation and internationally.

The History program develops student abilities in effective communication, engaged research, and critical thinking, which are the most basic and critical skills for any profession. It also offers a complete online path to achieving a BA degree in History. It supports many programs within the University of Alaska system and the Anchorage School District (ASD), as well as other school within the state and beyond. History graduates from UAA have made excellent careers as teachers or gone on to attend prestigious graduate programs to earn terminal degrees. Others have created small businesses, worked in the private sector, and the public sector – at the local, state, and federal levels. Our graduates are well represented in the nonprofit sector. Still other history graduates have attended law school and are practicing law professionally in a number of fields. History graduates serve Alaska at all levels of government and are currently found in the Alaska House of Representatives, the Alaska Senate, and the Governor's mansion.

Alignment with UAA 2020: The History Department's Mission Statement clearly expresses our philosophical as well as pedagogical commitments to our discipline. "[T]he habits of analysis and critical thinking provided by the discipline will make graduating History Majors more competent, conscientious and effective in whatever professional activities they may pursue. Students of history may utilize these skills to pursue employment and advancement within the historical profession as well as in advanced degrees in fields such as education, law, business, and government. The story of the past encompasses all of human activity: understanding its significance encourages us to be active and engaged citizens." The History Department's Mission aligns well with the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Mission

CAS History AY20 Expedited Program Review Revised

to “provide foundational education in the liberal arts and sciences for all students” (CAS Mission Statement). Likewise, the Department of History’s Mission Statement corresponds with UAA’s overall Mission and UAA’s 2020 Goals. We strive to “discover and disseminate knowledge through teaching, research, engagement and creative expression” (UAA Mission Statement). In addition, we seek to “advance the culture of institutional excellence that inspires and enables student, faculty and staff success” (UAA 2020 Goal 1). Thus, we try to “graduate more students to fill Alaska’s needs” (UAA 2020 Goal 3) in areas of teaching, public history, government service, and related professions in the private sector. According to Alaska State Labor Department data, 89% of History graduates receive job placements in Year 1 (Alaska State Department of Labor). More details are included in the **Student Success** section below. We stress the rigorous analysis of documents, critical interpretive skills in reading, effective communication through writing, and source-based research for our majors—these are academic attributes that strengthen the total UAA instructional program and prepare students for success in other classes, other programs, and in their careers. Historians interpret the record of the past—we explore the past and its meanings through our research efforts, both in and out of the classroom, and share the wonders of historical research and discovery with our students from the survey courses to the Senior Seminar. Historical knowledge is based on interpretation, evidence, and argument, and these skills translate into all aspects of life; indeed, these are not only historical skills but rather lifetime skills that the department takes very seriously. In the broadest terms, the study of history sharpens students’ judgment and enhances their capacity for problem solving.

Support for Other Academic Programs:

In addition to the large number of majors that the History program nurtures, the program supports other academic programs as follows:

UAA GER Requirement, Tier II Humanities: HIST A101: Western Civilization I; HIST A102: Western Civilization II; HIST A121: East Asian Civilization I; HIST A122: East Asian Civilization II; HIST A131: History of the United States I and HIST A132: History of the United States II

International Studies Program: History faculty teach specific content courses for the Europe, Northeast Asia, and global south/comparative regions tracks. The History Department is responsible for one of the required Core courses for the International Studies major (HIST A390: Themes in World History)

Language Majors: Upper division history courses are commonly taken by students majoring in languages such as Spanish, Japanese, and German to fulfill electives or meet degree requirements

School of Education: HIST A131: History of the United States I; HIST A132: History of the United States II; HIST A341: History of Alaska; and HIST A355: Major Themes in US History

Minor in Alaska Native Studies: HIST A341: History of Alaska

GER Integrative Capstone requirement: HIST A325: Northeast Asia in 21st Century, HIST A390: Themes in World History, HIST A341: History of Alaska, and HIST A427 Post Soviet Culture and Society fulfill the GER Integrative Capstone requirement

Alaska Native-Themed GER requirement: HIST A341: History of Alaska and HIST A346: History of Native Peoples of United States and Canada fulfill the Alaska Native-Themed requirement

Middle College: The History Department serves many Middle College students from the Anchorage and Mat-Su School Districts, particularly in HIST A131 and HIST A132.

Specific workforce development and employment opportunities relevant to the program:

Students graduating with a BA in History from UAA consistently achieve career success in high demand jobs such as teachers. Furthermore, many of our students have gone on to study in prestigious graduate programs. More details are included in the **Student Success** section below.

CAS History AY20 Expedited Program Review Revised

Partnerships with Outside Agencies:

Faculty members within the History Department have numerous partnerships and connections with outside agencies, businesses, and organizations. The following is a select list of the outside organizations with which we are connected:

- Anchorage School District
- Anchorage Museum
- Anchorage Mayor's Office
- Cook Inlet Historical Society
- Alaska World Affairs Council
- Alaska Humanities Forum
- Alaska Historical Society
- Fulbright
- National Park Service
- Rasmuson Foundation
- East Asia Resource Center (University of Washington)

Extramural Support and Funding for the Program:

History faculty members have received grants and/or support for their research activities from the following external organizations:

- Atwood Foundation
- National Park Service
- Rasmuson Foundation
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- National Consortium for Teaching About Asia (Freeman Foundation)
- One Asia Foundation, Japan
- National Research Foundation, Republic of Korea

2. Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity (7 year trend; 1400 words or less)

During the FY2013 - 2019 review period, the number of Seven-year History majors declined from 176 to 131 students, with a high of 190 majors in 2014. The decline of 25.6% in the course of 7 years is comparable to the average 24.6% decline in all CAS BA programs. Seven-year Student Credit Hour (SCH) numbers declined from 6,918 in 2013 to 5,365 in 2019, a decline of 22.4% over the 7-year period. This decline reflects the results of the budget cuts. It compares much better than the data for all of CAS, which experienced a 33.0% decline over the same period, from 128,446 to 86,072.

Following the same pattern of majors and credit hours, the number of awarded degrees started at 29 in FY2013, peaked at 40 in FY2014, and is at 25 for 2019. Although the History Department's enrollments and majors have declined during the review period, this aligns with the overall decline of UAA and CAS enrollments and was the result in no small part because of the departure of a tenure-track professor at the end of AY2014 and the retirement of CAS requirements that privileged lower-division history courses in Fall 2018. CAS requirements included 9 credits of Western Civilization and U.S. History survey courses.

Despite this decline in majors and degrees awarded, the Instructional Productivity of the History major is impressive. In terms of SCH/FTEF, the 7-year average for the History major is 724.7. This figure is 124.5 (20.7%) SCH per FTEF more than the CAS average of 600.2. The 7-year average Enrollment/FTEF for the History major is 241.9. This figure is 27.4 (12.8%) higher than the 7-year average Enrollment/FTEF of CAS, which is 214.5. The average class size for the History major is 29.6, while that of CAS is 23.8. Thus, the History class size is 5.9 (24.8%) larger than the CAS average. The 5-year average Cost/SCH for the available years (AY15-AY19) is 134.1, while the CAS average is 150.6. In other words, the cost of the History major is 11% lower than the CAS average. The average Tuition/SCH for History is 202.4, while that of CAS is 200.9.

CAS History AY20 Expedited Program Review Revised

Factoring in the information that the History major is producing 124.5 (20.7%) more SCH/FTEF, this means that the History major produced 20.9% ($20.7\% \times 1.0075$) more Tuition Revenue than the CAS average per FTEF.

Accordingly, the History Department has maintained a very solid program during the review period. The tables provided for this AY20 Expedited Program Review show that in spite of an overall contraction in the number of degrees and enrollment, the History Program remains strong. The faculty in the History Department are committed to student success of both majors and non-majors, and we successfully accomplish this mission while being efficient and productive in our delivery. The History program brings in revenue, graduates a steady stream of majors, and plays an essential role in delivery of courses to non-majors.

Seven year degree and/or certificate awards trend

The total number of degrees awarded was 29 in AY13, peaked at 40 in AY14, bottomed at 23 in AY18, and bounced back to 25 in AY19. The start of the decline corresponds with the timing of the departure of a professor in 2014. The degrees awarded seems to bounce slightly after hitting bottom in 2018. Overall, the number of degrees awarded have declined only slightly, from 29 to 25, over the course of 7 years.

Credits Per Degree (Average Credits Earned)

The average number of credits per degree in the review period is 113.4. Compared to the average 119.0 credits per degree for all CAS programs, the History program has been slightly more efficient in graduating majors.

Seven-year majors or program enrollment trend

The number of majors follows the pattern of degrees awarded: it peaked at 190 in AY14, and declined gradually to bottom out at 130 in AY18, and bounced slightly to 131 in AY19. The decline of 25.6% in the course of 7-years is comparable to the average 24.6% decline of all CAS BA programs.

Course pass rates

The average course pass rates for all History courses during the review period is 78.0%; the number has varied little during the 7-year period, the lowest being 76.2% in AY14 and the highest 80.1% in AY19. In addition, there is only a slight gap between the rate for 100-200 level courses (77.1%) and 300-400 level courses (80.9%).

The 7-year average D, F, and W rate for 100-200 level courses is 23.6%, while that for 300-400 level courses is 16.8%, resulting in an average D, F, and W rate for all History courses of 22.0%.

In comparison, the average Passing Rate for all CAS courses was 80.5%, and that of D, F, and W rate 15.6%.

Earlier intervention in 100-200 level History courses would be helpful to reduce the rates of D, F, and W grades, without lowering the rigorous instructional standard of the History Department.

Internal demand

The total SCH-In major is 17,823 students, while the total SCH-Out Major is 25,735 students, making up a total of 43,558 students. In other words, 59.1% of SCH is taken by non-majors, which testifies to the demand for History courses and the supporting role the History program plays at UAA. The rates for different levels are 68.9% for 100-200 level courses (21,873/31,758 SCH) and 32.7% (3,862/11,800 SCH) for 300-400 level courses. This is higher than the 100-200 level rate of 60.0% and 30.2% for 300-400 level courses for all CAS courses.

Seven year Student Credit Hour (SCH) production trend

The SCH w Audit number started at 6,918 in 2013 and declined steadily to 5,365 in 2019, resulting in a 22.4% decline over the 7-year period. This decline reflects the results of the budget cuts and the departure of a faculty member in 2014. However, it compares much better than the overall data for CAS, which experienced a 33.0% decline over the same period, from 128,446 to 86,072.

SCH/FTEF

The 7-year average SCH/FTEF for the History major is 724.7. This figure is 124.5 (20.7%) SCH per FTEF more than the CAS average of 600.2. For AY2019, the comparison is 703.6 vs. 579.8, meaning that History faculty taught 123.8 (21.4%) more SCH per FTEF compared to the CAS average.

Enrollment/Full Time Equivalent Faculty (FTEF)

The 7-year average Enrollment/FTEF for the History major is 241.9. This figure is 27.4 (12.8%) higher than the 7-year average Enrollment/FTEF for CAS, which is 214.5. For AY2019, the History major has 24.3 (11.5%) more Enrollment than the CAS average.

FTES/FTEF

The 7-year FTES/FTEF average for the History major is 24.1, while the CAS average is 22.1.

Class Size (Average Class Size)

The 7-year average class size for the History major is 29.7, while the average class size for CAS is 23.8. Thus, the History class size is 5.9 students (24.8%) larger than the CAS average. In AY2019, the average class size for History was 28.4, while the CAS overall average was 23.2.

Cost/SCH

The 5-year Cost/SCH average for the available years (AY15-AY19) is 134.1, while the CAS average is 150.6. In other words, the cost for the History major is 16.5 (11.0%) lower than the CAS average.

Tuition Revenue/SCH

The average Tuition Revenue/SCH for the History major is 202.4, while the average for CAS is 200.9. Thus, the History Tuition Revenue/SCH is 1.5 (0.75%) more than CAS average. When one factors in the information that the History major produced 124.5 (20.7%) more SCH/FTEF than the CAS average, the History major produced 20.9% (20.7% x 1.0075) more Tuition Revenue than the CAS average per FTEF.

External demand

An impressive majority of UAA History graduates have pursued further study in institutions of higher education, and 42 of them have received a second degree from institutions of higher learning between AY2013 and 2017 (data available only until AY2017). In addition, History major graduates gained employment in various professional occupations. A more detailed discussion of the success of History graduates is included in the next section.

3. Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success (1500 words or less)

Program Quality and Currency of the Curriculum:

The quality of the History major is exceptional. In AY2020, UAA's History Department conducted its 7-year review. In their response to our self-review, both the Interim Provost and Interim CAS Dean reported that **"The History Department is an exemplary department. It provides high quality instruction, high-impact practices to students across UAA programs, and does so with relatively few faculty, all of whom are deeply committed to student success."**

The History program has maintained and improved its high-quality offerings, updated its curriculum, incorporated high impact practices, and created an online path to a degree that is aligned with QM and C-Rac Standards. The History Department at UAA at present has only six tenured faculty members, of whom only four have an active research component in their contracts, and one of the faculty is currently in the CAS Dean's Office with a reduced teaching load.

All the tripartite History faculty members have published one or two academic monographs and several refereed articles. History faculty members present at local, national, and international conferences. We have received more than \$100,000 in external funding in the last several years, and among UAA faculty we are the most successful in obtaining internal funding. The History department has two Fulbright scholars, several recipients of the National Endowment of Humanities awards, and other prestigious fellowships and scholarships. Faculty members in the History program have received five Chancellor's Awards in Excellence in Teaching or in Research. UAA's History Department has a complete online path to its BA degree and has a team of faculty members who are very experienced in offering Distance Education.

The History Department has made changes to all its survey courses and most upper-level courses through the Course Inventory Management (CIM) system, to ensure that all courses are up to date for high quality instruction. The History Department added a number of new courses, including *HIST A308: Europe in the High Middle Ages*; *HIST S336: Latin American to 1800*; *HIST A338: Modern Latin America*; *HIST A406: Medieval Iberia*; *HIST A408: Early Modern Iberia*; and *HIST A454: United States History in the New Gilded Age: 1980s to the Present*. Courses have also been revised as a result of assessment processes to make them more rigorous such as *HIST A420 (formerly HIST A320): Rise Fall and Reinvention of the Samurai* and *HIST A422 (formerly HIST A323): "Communist" China*. In addition, History faculty members are constantly updating their courses in terms of assigned readings, research, and teaching pedagogies. We model our Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) of engaged research, critical historical thinking, and effective communication in the classroom. This constant update of the content of our courses is critical to the success of other programs—INTL and Languages in particular.

Distance Offerings:

The History Department offers an online path to a BA degree in History. Faculty continue to develop quality online offerings so that students can acquire a BA in History by taking only online courses through the UAA History program. This completion of an online path to a degree contributes to student success by improving program accessibility. The History Program is one of only a handful of UAA programs that offer a degree that can be obtained solely online. All online courses meet the standards of Quality Matters (QM) and the Interregional Guidelines for the Evaluation of Distance Education (Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC) (2011). The History Department has also created Title III Grant Master Online Course shells for *HIST A101: Western Civilization I*, *HIST A102: Western Civilization II*, *HIST A131: History of the United States I*, *HIST A132: History of the United States II* in FY2016-19. In addition, one faculty member has completed a full version of the QM training and received certification for this while another faculty member has completed a condensed version of the QM training.

Student Success:

Student success has been remarkable in the UAA History Department. History students have consistently demonstrated the high quality of the UAA History program through their presentations at student History conferences, and receipt of research grants through UAA Honors Colleges. Many History graduates have advanced to graduate programs and were hired in professional jobs. In addition, *HIST A495: Internship in History*, which began in

CAS History AY20 Expedited Program Review Revised

AY2016, offers History majors an opportunity to apply what they have learned in a professional capacity. What follows is a select list of student success stories in high-impact practices:

Job placements and graduate school admissions: According to Alaska State Labor Department data, 89% of History graduates receive job placements in Year 1. In the past five years, UAA history graduates have been admitted to graduate programs in leading universities, including: the University of Washington, the University of Michigan, the University of Illinois, Washington State University, Syracuse University, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Texas at San Antonio, Arizona State University, and Boise State University. Several others have enrolled in graduate or professional degree programs at UAA, UAF, and UAS.

Internships: Since FY2017, the History Department developed and has offered *HIST A495: History Internship*. Since its implementation, a number of History majors have taken advantage of the opportunity to do an internship that uses their skills, either in a university context or in the wider community. To date, interns have served as research assistants for multiple faculty in the History Department; they have served as the Student Director of the Alaska Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference; and they have provided expertise and skills to several external constituencies, such as the Anchorage School District to facilitate History Day, the UAA Multicultural Center, the Anchorage Mayor's Office, TBA Theater Company, and the Alaska World Affairs Council, the Alaska Humanities Forum, the Anchorage Museum Archives, the Anchorage Museum Education and Programming Department, the Alaska Veteran's Museum, the Alaska Historical Society, UAA/APU Archives and Special and Collections. Thus far, all interns have received good to excellent evaluations from their site supervisors and several fruitful relationships have emerged, including students at the Anchorage Museum, the Alaska Veterans Museum, the Anchorage Mayor's Office, and the Alaska Humanities Forum.

Scholarly publications: David Reamer's essay "Damn the Bitches, They Want Gin: The Eighteenth-Century English Gin Craze" was published in *The New England Journal of History*. More recently, David Reamer co-authored an article with faculty member, Ian Hartman, entitled, "A 'Far North Dixie Land': Black Settlement, Discrimination, and Community in Urban Alaska," with David Reamer in *Western Historical Quarterly* (Summer 2019), 1-20. Celeste Earley-Steinke's essay "Beyond the Midwife Witch: The Gendered History of Midwifery Manuals in Early Modern England" appeared on ABO Public's website.

Research Experience: The UAA Department of History hosted the Alaska Regional Phi Alpha Theta History Conference for four consecutive years (FY2014-2018). This conference brings together faculty and students from the other MAUs and community campuses and provides a wonderful networking experience for students and faculty from campuses across Alaska. Each year, approximately 15-20 undergraduate and graduate students present original historical research at the conference. The History Department invites award-winning historians as keynote speakers and both students and faculty are energized by the event, which provides networking opportunities and a sense of community for those engaged in the discipline of History.

Capstone Experiences: All History majors are required to take a Junior Capstone course (Historiography) and a Senior Capstone course (Senior Seminar). The Historiography course allows History majors to delve into various approaches to and skills in historical writing and prepares the students for writing a Senior Seminar paper in the following year. The Senior Seminar allows students to combine all the skills they have acquired in their previous History courses, including clear and concise English writing skills and critical and integrative thinking. On average, 78% and 77% of students respectively have scored A or B grades in the Junior Capstone and Senior Capstone courses over the past three years, demonstrating the successful and systematic curriculum of UAA's History BA program.

4. Program Duplication / Distinctiveness (300 words or less)

The UAA History Department is the largest history program in the state of Alaska and seeks to work collaboratively with its colleagues across the state. The UAA History Department is the only History department in Alaska that can grant a BA degree in History on a regular and reliable basis, with Junior and Senior Capstones courses offered every semester. In addition, with a very effective online path to a degree, UAA History department can be a hub for all the demands for History majors in Alaska regardless of their locations, even for those students at other MAUs who take a few History courses from their physical locations.

5. Summary Analysis (500 words or less)

In AY2019, the UAA's History Department conducted its 7th-year review. In his Recommendation dated April 24, 2019, Interim Dean John Petratis found that "The History Department is an exemplary department. It provides high-quality instruction, high-impact practices to students across UAA programs, and does so with relatively few faculty, all of whom are deeply committed to student success." He stated that the History program is "well positioned to expand its offerings of course in Alaska history, something that would fit nicely within UAA's new Alaska-Native themed general education requirement. The addition of a tenure track position with expertise in Alaska History and Alaska Native History, in particular, should be a priority of CAS." In his Final Decision dated July 26, 2019, Interim Provost John Stalvey concurred with the Dean's findings, and added that "I want to join the dean in thanking the faculty for their efforts on this thorough review and on building an excellent program." Both the Dean and the Provost recommended 'Continuation' of the UAA History program.

UAA's History Department has 6 tenured faculty members and 1 term faculty member. Out of 6 tenured faculty members, one member serves as the Associate Dean for Humanities and Fine Arts of CAS and another serves as the Chair of UAA's International Studies program and Assessment Coordinator for CAS, effectively removing 1 faculty member from our active teaching rotation list. Our faculty performs well above its size and educates more than 130 majors per year. The History Department generates about 21% more Tuition Revenue per FTEF than the CAS average, at a cost that is about 11% lower than the CAS average. The quality of the faculty is exceptional; its curriculum is current; the program has a complete online path to its degree, which can meet the demand for History courses anywhere in Alaska and beyond. The History program currently services many other programs at UAA as well as Middle College students. In Fall 2019, 32 ASD high school students are enrolled in a HIST A131 course and 26 ASD students enrolled in a HIST A132 course. The ASD and UAA History Department are discussing ways to increase the number of ASD students in other History courses.

As the predominant degree granting History department in the state of Alaska, UAA's History Department should be continued, supported, and expanded so that its faculty may continue to provide a high-quality BA program at a low cost. This History Department yields both revenue and respect for the UA system; its faculty members are present in the community and serve as goodwill ambassadors to the discipline and the university. The History Department helps train Alaska's teachers, sends idealistic graduates to Alaska's nonprofits and museums, and serves as a training ground for future public servants and job creators in businesses, large and small. History has been a cornerstone discipline of the modern American university, and it is poised to remain a cornerstone discipline at UAA.