ASSESSMENT WEBSITE INFORMATION

College: **Humanities** **Degree Program: History MA**

Chair/Director: Gina Hogue

DATA SAY:

New Students entering the MA program are required to take Introduction to Graduate Study of History in which they developed more sophisticated historical thinking, research, and writing skills. Enrollment numbers for the MA Public History track have been low for several years.

SO WHAT:

Faculty who teach Introduction to Graduate Study of History use this opportunity to encourage students to write Master's theses. The department hopes to increase enrollment in the MA programs as Arkansas State transitions to a research-intensive university.

HOW WE CHANGED:

Graduate faculty are mentoring students who are currently writing Master's theses. Prior to this students discussed writing Master's theses and entered into the preliminary research stages but never completed the project. History department is increasing their offerings in the Public History track through collaborations with faculty members and experts in the field to make the program more attractive to potential students.

WHAT WE GOT:

Two students will complete their Master's theses this summer and will enter doctoral programs in the fall.

The history department's renewed emphasis on the MA Public History track may improve career opportunities for graduates of the program. Data collection is ongoing.

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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College: **Humanities** **Degree Program:** **History MA**

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DATA SAY:

Students entering the MA History program with only the minimum required GPA experienced challenges in completing course assignments successfully.

SO WHAT:

If low performing students were able to complete the course work, many of them experienced difficulty in completing the comprehensive exams.

HOW WE CHANGED:

As faculty continue to remediate low performing students, the Department decided to implement new admission requirements. A new course, Introduction to Graduate Study of History, was developed to ensure that all graduate students were prepared in a uniform way to begin graduate studies at ASU.

WHAT WE GOT:

Enrollment has decreased slightly. The Department expected enrollments to decline as students adjusted to the new admission requirements. The overall impact of the Introduction to Graduate Study of History course has yet to be determined but preliminary discussions with faculty indicate that students who have completed the course during the two semesters that it has been offered are performing more effectively in their course work.

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