

University of North Alabama
Department of History & Political Science
Program Review

Name and Signature of Chair: _____
Dr. Christopher A. Maynard

Date of Report: June, 30, 2010

1. Five-Year Departmental Enrollment and Faculty Data

A Review of the five-year enrollment data (2004-05 to 2008-09) provided by the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment shows a steady increase in the number of unduplicated majors at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. As indicated in Table 1, significant growth has been seen at the graduate level. At the undergraduate level, the growth has been steadily building with the exception of 2008-09; however, there is strong reason to doubt the accuracy of the 2008-09 data provided by the Office of Institutional, Research, Planning and Assessment. The department's own internal report as well as an ARGOS report places the total number of undergraduate majors at 278 for 2008-09, which, when added to the growth in graduate majors for that year, would indicate a modest decline in majors, but statistically no change in credit hour production. In fact, Table 2 shows that the department experienced tremendous growth in credit hour production during the five-year period. Table 3 shows that the growth was strongest in history courses.

<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>2004-05</i>	<i>2005-06</i>	<i>2006-07</i>	<i>2007-08</i>	<i>2008-09</i>	<i>Average</i>
Status						
Full-Time	153	156	221	215	131	175.20
Part-Time	60	79	89	102	72	80.40
Total	213	235	310	317	203	255.60
FTE Students	173.00	182.33	250.67	249.00	155.00	202.00

<i>Master</i>	<i>2004-05</i>	<i>2005-06</i>	<i>2006-07</i>	<i>2007-08</i>	<i>2008-09</i>	<i>Average</i>
Status						
Full-Time	NA	NA		2	7	4.50
Part-Time	NA	NA	10	19	49	26.00
Total	NA	NA	10	21	56	29.00
FTE Students	NA	NA	7.83	8.33	23.33	13.17

Table 1: Number of unduplicated majors (summer, spring, and fall semesters combined).

	<i>2004-05</i>	<i>2005-06</i>	<i>2006-07</i>	<i>2007-08</i>	<i>2008-09</i>	<i>Average</i>
Undergrad	12,165	13,606	14,247	13,857	14,223	13,620
Graduate	123	202	237	522	477	312
Total	12,288	13,808	14,484	14,379	14,700	13,932

Table 2: Student Credit Hour Production (Summer, Fall, Spring Semesters Combined)

	<i>Fall 2004</i>	<i>Fall 2005</i>	<i>Fall 2007</i>	<i>Fall 2008</i>	<i>Average</i>
	4,383	5,002	5,058	5,103	4,967
	828	897	903	966	895
	297	258	255	279	274
	192	246	252	177	218
	5,700	6,403	6,468	6,525	6,355

Undergraduate Credit Hour Production

Discipline

Additional Faculty

Table 2 (below) full-time faculty production was relatively stable throughout the five-year period. One new position was created to provide support for the new major in African-American and graduate majors as well as to support the growth in credit hour production. The department was forced to turn to part-time faculty over an increasing number of semesters. Based on information in Table 1, each full-time faculty member produced 1,024 credit hours compared to 1,024 credit hours for each full-time faculty member in 2008-09; a more than 10% growth per faculty position. In addition to more part-time faculty, full-time faculty were increasingly asked to teach course overloads. It also became common for part-time faculty to teach more than one course per semester. The department has received inquiries into the creation of additional part-time positions in African-American and African-American Studies.

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department greatly exceeded the 25% threshold in 2005-2008, but made significant gains in 2008-09 to remain at or only slightly above the 25% mark. This was accomplished largely through full-

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University of Alabama, University of Tennessee, University of Texas, University of Mississippi, Mississippi College of Law, Samford University (Cumberland School of Law), Jones School of Law, Birmingham School of Law, University of Miami, and several others.

Undergraduate Exit Exams

The department requires the PRAXIS II exam for Social Science majors. Additionally, history majors who double-major in secondary education are required to take a PRAXIS II exam for certification; therefore, the department has tracked those scores even though it is technically not an exit exam for the history major. The department has maintained excellent PRAXIS II results during the five-year reporting period. One trend in the data is that the UNA mean for PRAXIS II: World & U.S. History has slightly declined over the five-year period while the UNA mean for PRAXIS II: Social Studies has gradually increased over that same span. This can be partially explained by the fact that more of UNA's stronger majors have switched to the more rigorous Social Science major to improve their flexibility in a tightening job market while some of the weaker students have switched to the more manageable history major in an effort to graduate more quickly. It is also interesting to note that the national mean for PRAXIS II: World & U.S. History has declined during the same period, making UNA's slight decline reflective of the national trend. Regardless, the UNA mean for both exams is still above the Alabama minimum score for initial certification. Sub-scores from the five-year period shows that economics continues to be the primary weakness of social science majors at UNA; modern world history is a weak area for both history majors and social science majors.

All history majors and political science majors are required to take a Major Field Test (MFT) prior to graduation. Unfortunately, the department has not always maintained those records and the university does not store back-up copies. Thus, the MFT data is not complete for each year of the five-year reporting period. Additionally, ETS has phased out the MFT for history, which has meant that the collective national data in recent years has not been made available by ETS. The department has decided to require the PRAXIS II test for all history majors starting in 2010-11. Another complication is the fact that the department does not require a minimum score on the MFT. While students are required to obtain a minimum score on PRAXIS II, the lack of required minimum score on the MFT has led to students not taking the test seriously and, thus, a significant gap between PRAXIS II scores and MFT scores. The department is currently exploring the idea of a minimum score that would be required for graduation.

The history MFT history examination covers three areas: United States history, European history, and Non-western history (African, Asian, and Latin American history). Although the data is incomplete for the reasons mentioned above, three facts are clear: (1) The UNA mean is similar to the national mean over the course of the five-year period (2) history majors excel in non-western history, which is attributable to the required coursework 0 1000doursework 0 1000doursework 0

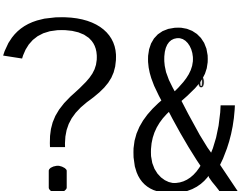
U.S. government and politics and comparative politics remained strong and exceeded the national average (3) sub-scores in international relations were somewhat below the national mean. The department has recently hires a new professor in international relations and those numbers are expected to improve.

Overview of PRAXIS II Testing: 2004-09

Passed by the Alabama State Board of Education on April 14, 2005, the PRAXIS II is required for initial teacher certification. After a “no fault year” (April 14, 2005-April 13, 2006), a minimum score was set as a precondition to certification. Between April 14, 2006, and May 31, 2007, Social Science/Secondary Education majors were required to score a minimum of 151 on the PRAXIS II: Social Studies: Content Knowledge (0081). History/Secondary Education majors were required to score a minimum of 139 on the PRAXIS II: World & U.S. History: Content Knowledge (0941). New score requirements were effective on June 1, 2007. Social Science/Secondary Education majors now are required to score a minimum of 153 on the PRAXIS II: Social Studies: Content Knowledge (0081). History/Secondary Education majors are now required to score a minimum of 143 on the PRAXIS II: World & U.S. History: Content Knowledge (0941).

PRAXIS II: World & U.S. History: Content Knowledge (0941)

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Departmental Summary of Assessment Indicators

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6. State the vision and plans for the future of the department

1. Expansion of Programs: The department has recently gained approval for two new minors: (1) Philosophy and (2) Legal Studies. The department hopes to use these two minors to attract students into our current majors. The Legal Studies minor in particular should help us recruit students into our Mock Trials Program and improve on our already strong record of LSAT preparation and law school admissions. The Philosophy minor should pair well with both our history and political science major to better prepare students for graduate school admission. The department also hopes to expand the number of both undergraduate and graduate internships and explore the possibility of graduate assistantships and/or fellowships.
2. Increase Faculty Resources: the department hopes to gain approval for a new faculty line in African American history. The dramatic increase in credit hour production over the five-year reporting period certainly justifies a new faculty line. In addition, African American history is a much needed area of historical inquiry for both our undergraduate and graduate student population. For a state university in the South not to offer African American history is, in the minds of the departmental members, a glaring hole in our curriculum. The department would also like to explore options that will allow the department to reduce the reliance on part-time faculty for survey-level courses.
3. Increase Financial Resources: The department hopes to increase both the number and size of student scholarships over the next five years. The department also hopes to acquire funding for the Mock Trials Program, which does not currently receive any academic funding. An increase in the department's supply budget will also be explored in order to bring the department's supply budget in line with departments of comparable size. This would allow the department more flexibility to upgrade outdated technology and better position the department's programs to compete with those at other universities.

7. Program Overview (Based on 2009-10 Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs)

Department of History and Political Science

Chair: Dr. Christopher Maynard, 109 Willingham Hall, 765-4306

Faculty: Dr. Alex Aguado, Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee, Dr. Dan Burton, Dr. Tim Collins, Dr. Matt Fitzsimmons, Dr. Rob Hart, Dr. George Makowski, Dr. Larry Nelson, Dr. Tom Osborne, Dr. Lynne Rieff, Dr. Chizuru Saeki, Dr. Matt Schoenbachler

The Department of History and Political Science offers majors in history, political science, and social science. These programs lead to a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree. Minors are offered in history and political science. The department also offers a minor in women's studies and a joint minor in religion and philosophy. Also, in cooperation with the College of Education, the department offers the academic coursework appropriate for the preparation and certification of secondary teachers in the fields of history and social science.

The history program is designed to serve students who wish to prepare for graduate study in history, for teaching history and social studies in the high schools, for entry into professional schools such as law, library science, journalism, seminary training, and for careers in business, educational institutions, and other areas which require a broad general education. Students with a minimum score of 28 on the ACT Reading subtest or a minimum score of 630 on the SAT Reading Comprehension subtest

Requirements for a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree with a major in history.

Course Credit

A. General Education Component	41
For general education requirements and additional requirements for UNA students, refer to <i>Academic Procedures and Requirements</i> .	
Area V: Additional Requirements	23
23 hours from among any course listed in Arts and Sciences Area V elective courses or any UNA elective course to bring total to 23 hours.	<hr/> 64

Course Credit

For the Bachelor of Arts degree the student must satisfy the following requirement: 6 hours of a required foreign language at the intermediate level. The student may elect to count up to 6 hours of foreign language at the intermediate level (201, 202) towards the 23 hours in this area.

B. Major Core Requirements:

*World Civilization (101, 102)	6
*United States History (201, 202)	6
History and Historical Research (301W)	3
History Electives (300-400 level) with at least nine hours in non-United States history	21
Prescribed Supporting Course: Business Applications of Microcomputer Software (CIS 125) or Introduction to Computers (CS 110) or a higher numbered Computer Information Systems or Computer Science course or Educational Technology (ED 481)	3

C. Minor:

A minor or a second major is required for this major.

D. General Elective hours, if required, to bring total to 128.

Requirements for a minor in history

Course Credit

World Civilization (101, 102)	6
United States History (201, 202)	6
History and Historical Research (301W)	3
History Electives (300-400 level)	<u>9</u>
Total	24

Requirements for a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree with a major in political science

Course Credit

A. General Education Component. 41

For general education requirements and additional requirements for UNA students, refer to *Academic Procedures and Requirements*.

Political Science majors must complete:

Area IV: Political Science 241 (3)

Area V: Additional Requirements 23

23 hours from among any course listed in Arts and Sciences Area V elective courses or any UNA elective course to bring total to 23 hours.

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For the Bachelor of Arts degree the student must satisfy the following requirement: 6 hours of a required foreign language at the intermediate level. The student may

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political science, or sociology
 Prescribed Supporting Course:
 Introduction to Data Processing (CIS 125) or
 Introduction to Computers (CS 110) or a higher numbered
 Computer Information Systems or Computer Science course
 or Educational Technology (ED 481) 3

C. Minor:
 A minor, other than history, or a second major is required for this major.
 D. General Elective hours, if required, to bring total to 128.

Requirements for a minor in religion and philosophy

Course Credit

Introduction to Philosophy (PHL 201)	3
Logic (PHL 202)	3
Old Testament Introduction (RE 221)	3
New Testament Introduction (RE 231)	3
Philosophy of Religion (RE/PHL 303)	3
Religion/Philosophy Electives (300-400 level) with at least three hours in religion and three hours in philosophy.	<u>9</u>
Total	24

Requirements for a Master of Arts degree in history

Requires a minimum of 33 semester hours of credit and includes the following core and options:

Hours

Core Courses of Study	15
HI 605, Historiography and Methodology	
HI 611, Studies in U.S. History (1607-1865)	
HI 612, Studies in U.S. History (1865-Present)	
HI 621, Studies in European History to 1815	
HI 622, Studies in European History Since 1815	
Elective Courses of Study	18

THESIS OPTION: student choosing the Thesis (Option must complete HI 695, Thesis (6) in

Community college articulation

The Department of History and Political Science and the University of North Alabama are in compliance with the standards set by the Articulation and General Studies Committee (AGSC) and participates in the Statewide Transfer & Articulation Reporting System (STARS).

“The AGSC was created to simplify the transfer of course credit between public institutions of higher education. To accomplish this task, the AGSC has developed and has implemented a statewide general studies and articulation program that facilitates the transferability of coursework among all Alabama public colleges and universities” (http://stars.troy.edu/agsc/what_agsc.htm).

“STARS stands for Statewide Transfer & Articulation Reporting System. STARS is a web-accessible database system which provides guidance and direction for prospective transfer students in the State of Alabama.

The STARS System allows public two-year students in Alabama to obtain a Transfer Guide/Agreement for the major of their choice. This guide/agreement, if used correctly, guides the student through their first two years of coursework and prevents loss of credit hours upon transfer to the appropriate public four-year university in Alabama” (http://stars.troy.edu/stars/what_stars.htm).

Table 6 (below) show

Undergraduate Political Science Program

Degree(s) Offered

Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Political Science

Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Political Science

Statement of Purpose

The Political Science program is designed to provide a high quality liberal arts education at the undergraduate level in the discipline of political science. The curriculum in political science provides a sound basis to accomplish the following two objectives:

1. Preparation of students for graduate study in political science—including International, Comparative, and American politics, but also, Public Policy, Public Administration, and Political Philosophy; and or, preparation of students for law school.
2. The creation of an intellectual environment where students can develop their academic and professional skills. We strive to help students learn to think more critically about domestic and international politics, about law and political thought, and about governance and policy. In doing so, we believe they will become more thoughtful and sophisticated citizens, and more articulate and effective in the workplace.

Outcomes

Students completing the Political Science program will:

1. Employ skills in reading, writing, analysis and speaking.
2. Display appropriate subject matter preparation by demonstrating a knowledge of the various subfields within the discipline, as well as the key concepts, generalizations, and methodologies appropriate to the study of political science.

Assessment Mechanisms

1. Each student will meet or surpass a score equivalent to the 25th percentile on the Major Field Test (MFT): Political Science, as administered by Educational Testing Services. (Outcomes 1-2)
2. In PS 301 W, Political Science Scope and Methods, students will complete writing assignments utilizing the current research methodologies employed by political scientists. (Outcomes 1-2)
3. The Department will conduct an exit interview with each graduate in which the graduate will be asked to evaluate their education at UNA, with specific reference to the Political Science major, and to suggest ways in which the program might be improved. (Outcome 1)

Undergraduate Social Science Program

Degree(s) Offered

Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Social Science

Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Social Science

Statement of Purpose

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Graduate Program in History

Degree Offered

Master of Arts in History

Statement of Purpose

The Master of Arts degree in History program is intended to meet the educational needs of those aspiring to professional advancement in the study and/or teaching of history or in other professions requiring an advanced degree. The Masters of Arts in History is organized as a

Assessment Mechanisms

1. Satisfactory completion of Annual Graduate Evaluations, which will be completed at the end of each academic year and assessed by the Graduate Studies Committee to assure academic performance and degree completion progress. (Outcomes 1-4)
2. Satisfactory completion of historiographic essays and exams in HI 605, Historiography and Methodology. (Outcome 3)
3. Satisfactory completion of an original, thesis-driven work of historical scholarship, which may be completed in HI 695, Thesis [Thesis Option] OR writing-based seminars (six hours in any combination of HI 640, Seminar in U.S. History and HI 641, Seminar in European History) and satisfactory completion of HI 698: Comprehensive Examination [Non-thesis Option]. (Outcomes 1 and 2)
4. Completion of a written exit questionnaire and oral exit interview with the Director of Graduate Studies. (Outcome 4)