



Department of History

2019-2020

Periodic Program Review

History (BS)

I. Executive Summary

This self-study exercise, together with the SWOT process, has clarified for the History faculty the strengths the Department has to build on, the weaknesses it can seek to overcome, the opportunities it can explore, and the threats it can seek to minimize. Each of us already knew a good deal of what is documented here, especially that we are innovative, productive teacher-scholars who promote deep, engaged learning, sustain a positive departmental culture, forge intra- and extra-institutional partnerships, and contribute extensively across the full range of service, including in leadership roles. But none of us knew all of it, and statistical information from Institutional Research and Career Services about our majors and recent alumni is revelatory to almost all of us. We have been keenly aware of the drop in our number of majors and softening in enrollment—due to the drop in job openings for teachers, the great recession, and the lifting of our “staggering” general education burden that was touted in the 2012 Joint Action Plan. Our Power of History strategic plan is a direct response to this challenge. It aims to demonstrate to current and prospective students and to College administrators the power of mastering historical research, analysis, and communication in achieving career success, informed citizenship, and purposeful living in a diverse region, nation and world. Continuing to implement that plan can and must involve maximizing the yield from accepted students, increasing retention, and decreasing time to degree for both native freshmen and transfers, while also striving to diversify our majors and faculty. We cannot alter large-scale demographic or economic patterns. We will, however, continue to show students and administrators why majoring in History at Brockport is a great choice (including for future elementary teachers), to be in conversation with our majors and minors about how our program can prepare them for the futures they envision, and to reach out across the College and to alumni and community partners for mutual benefit.