

The University of Southern Mississippi

Detailed Assessment Report

As of: 9/18/2016 12:14 PM CDT

2015-2016 Archives and Special Collections Graduate Certificate**
(Includes those Action Plans with Budget Amounts marked One-Time, Recurring, No Request.)

Mission / Purpose

This certificate aims to prepare students for careers in archives and related fields such as special collections or cultural repositories.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives, with Any Associations and Related Measures, Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

SLO 1: Professional practice and training experiences

Students will gain professional practice and training experiences including preservation and digitization, in a real-world environment by completing 150 hours of supervised practicum work in an archive or special collection.

Related Measures:

M 1: Practicum evaluation

The on-site practicum supervisor will evaluate the student's work using a practicum evaluation rubric.

Source of Evidence: Field work, internship, or teaching evaluation

Target:

Using the practicum evaluation rubric, 90% of student practicums will be rated satisfactory or excellent by their practicum supervisor.

Findings (2015-2016) - Target: Met

(online, n=13) - Fall 2015: 100% (5/5) of student practica were rated satisfactory or excellent using the practicum evaluation rubric. Spring 2016: 100% (1/1) of student practica were rated satisfactory or excellent using the practicum evaluation rubric. Summer 2016: (100% (7/7) of student practica were rated satisfactory or excellent using the practicum evaluation rubric. Total: 100% (13/13) of student practica were rated satisfactory or excellent using the practicum evaluation rubric.

M 2: Practicum Journal

Student's reflective practicum journal will be evaluated by the faculty practicum adviser using the practicum journal rubric.

Source of Evidence: Written assignment(s), usually scored by a rubric

Target:

Using the practicum journal rubric, 90% of student journals will be rated satisfactory or excellent.

Findings (2015-2016) - Target: Met

(online, n=13) - Fall 2015: 100% (5/5) student journals were rated satisfactory or excellent using the practicum journal rubric. Spring 2016: 100% (1/1) student journals were rated satisfactory or excellent using the practicum journal rubric. Summer 2016: (100% (7/7 students) student journals were rated satisfactory or excellent using the practicum journal rubric. Total: 100% (13/13) student journals were rated satisfactory or excellent using the practicum journal rubric.

SLO 2: Archival research paper

Students will write a 2500-4500 word research paper on a specific, approved topic related to archives or special collections. The paper will include a review of relevant literature.

Review of other archival programs and courses

A review of other graduate archival programs is in progress to determine need for

Continuous Improvement Initiatives

The archival practicum is evaluated by the on-site practicum supervisor, a professional archivist or special librarian who provides a mid-term and final practicum evaluation. The evaluation is both quantitative using a rating scale and qualitative (a space for comments). These evaluations are submitted to and reviewed by the faculty practicum advisor as a way to determine the quality of the practicum experience. In 2015-16, SLIS faculty evaluated the content and learning objectives for the certificate courses using "Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival Studies" by the Society of American Archivists. All of the SAA curricular items are addressed in the requirements for the archival certificate but this review should be done periodically to be sure current standards are addressed in the certificate requirements.

Closing the Loop

In response to feedback in focus groups for greater flexibility in approved electives for the certificate, LIS 580: British Studies was added to the list of archival certificate electives. This initiative was proposed by the Curriculum Committee and approved by SLIS faculty, College Curriculum Committee, and Graduate Council. One elective, LIS 506: Advanced Cataloging, is in the process of being modified to multimedia cataloging, which will provide more relevant content for the archival certificate. A database of practicum opportunities and locations is planned to match students to archives and special collections in their area that are seeking a practicum student.

Technology Use

Technologies required for various courses that enhance student learning include: - Blackboard Collaborate virtual classroom, where students are required to participate each week in live, online classes - Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint (or equivalent) applications which are required for many class assignments - Web 2.0 applications: blogs, wikis, etc. Technology-related assignments specific to certificate requirements include: - creating a digital library collection - creating metadata records using ContentDM online archival cataloging application.