### Graduates of the History Program Will Be Able to Produce Their Own Historical Argument in Written and Oral Form

**Direct Measure:** Using a common rubric, research papers written for the senior capstone course will be evaluated.

**Conclusions Reached as a Result of the Assessment Activity:** Students are usually weak in one key area, such as thesis, historiography, etc.

**Modifications as a Result of Assessment:** To focus on these skills, we have increased the credit hours and class time associated with our capstone course. In addition, the credit hours in our other courses have also been increased, which should allow more concentrated practice in these skills.

### Graduates of the History Program Will Demonstrate Mastery of Content in U.S. and World History

**Direct Measure:** WEST-E Exam

The WEST-E is a content area exit exam. As mandated by the State of Washington, the exam is taken by all students seeking teaching certification and must be passed before commencing the internship (student teaching). The WEST-E for Social Studies consists of six content areas: 1) Civics; 2) Economics; 3) Geography; 4) U.S. History; 5) World History; and 6) Social Studies Concepts and Skills.

On the 2010 test dates, 13 graduates of the history program took the WEST-E Social Studies. Of these 13 graduates, 11 passed—a pass rate of 85 percent. More germane to their learning in the history program is the fact that only 2 of the 13 graduates received a rating below 3 (answered many of the questions correctly) on either the U.S. or world history section of the test. On these two sections, the 13 graduates earned 10 ratings of 4 (answered most or all of the questions correctly). A passing score on the WEST-E is 240; the mean score of all 13 program graduates was 251. Our graduates’ performance on the WEST-E indicates that most of our graduates are able to demonstrate mastery of content in U.S. and world history.

**Modifications as a Result of Assessment:** No immediate curricular changes have been made as a result of this data. However, faculty are requesting data that will help us to determine if there are specific content areas in which our graduates consistently need improvement. If there appears to be a pattern in any content area, the related courses will be examined.