Expected Outcomes: Applied Archival Studies Knowledge

Recognizing that archival studies is both scholarly and service-oriented, students in the graduate certificate program will complete an educational internship experience that requires a significant work product. Interns will learn how to effectively function in an archival field setting that encourages collaboration and teamwork, apply the theories and skills they have learned to real-world environments, demonstrate an ability to explain the ethical issues and range of knowledge and skills required of archival professionals, and begin building a network with archival professionals.

Assessment methods

Method: Internship Sponsor Report and Student Project/Repo

Internship sponsors will provide a report to the archival studies program coordinator detailing the student's work and progress that will be considered along with the student's final report and project.

Findings:

While the archival studies certificate is brand new, our students have a long history of completing internships in a variety of archival settings, including academic archives, state archives, and local historical societies. Past experience indicates that an important factor in a successful internship experience is matching student needs to the needs of the archival facility. During academic year 2011-2012, five students completed internships at a variety of archival facilities, including: Chambers County Public Library, The Encyclopedia of Alabama, Auburn University Special Collections, and Faulkner University.

How did you use findings for improvement?

The internship helps students apply knowledge in archival settings and prepare for work after graduation. Feedback can assist the program expand its network of internship sites to provide students practical experience and an expanded professional network. This information can also help determine if particular sites are better suited to handling archival interns.

Additional comments:

None

Expected Outcomes: Archival Studies Placement

Those awarded a graduate archival studies certificate who are pursuing a career in archives will be highly competitive in the job market.

Assessment methods

Method: Archival Studies Placement Survey

ACHE recognized the archival studies graduate certificate in Fall 2011. Information gathered in the coming years will be valuable in evaluating students who complete the certificate program. Generally, students seeking an archival position should be successful within 3 years and advance beyond their initial appointment. In 2011-2012 two students received the Archival Studies...
Certificate, and at the current time no data is available on job placement.

Findings:

ACHE recognized the archival studies graduate certificate in Fall 2011. Information gathered in the coming years will be valuable in evaluating students who complete the certificate program. Generally, students seeking an archival position should be successful within 3 years and advance beyond their initial appointment. In 2011-2012 two students received the Archival Studies Certificate, and at the current time no data is available on job placement.

How did you use findings for improvement?

The newly established graduate certificate in archival studies will provide MA and PhD history graduate students who have completed the requisite requirements to claim a recognized professional credential. The sample size for placement will be limited but can be used to draw useful conclusions about professional development opportunities, program requirements, and training for graduate students.

Additional comments:

None

Expected Outcomes: Academy of Certified Archivists Examination Pass R

Those awarded a graduate archival studies certificate that are pursuing a career in archives may choose to sit for the Academy of Certified Archivists examination. This is a post degree professional certification exam for practicing archivists in the field.

Assessment methods

Method: Academy of Certified Archivists Examination Pass R

Survey the students who take the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) exam to determine what percentage are successful in attaining ACA status within three years of completion of degree.

Findings:

ACHE recognized the archival studies certificate in fall 2011. Information gathered in the coming years from students who choose to take the ACA exam will provide the opportunity to assess the certificate program. Auburn cannot require students to take exam, but it is expected that job-seeking students will seek this additional qualification to enhance their employment opportunities. Generally, students seeking ACA certification should be successful within 3 years. This year one student sat for the exam, with results pending.

How did you use findings for improvement?

The newly established graduate certificate in archival studies will provide MA and PhD history graduates with the educational skills and knowledge to successfully pass the ACA exam. The sample size for placement will be limited but the data is useful to draw conclusions about program requirements and the general archival knowledge of students completing the Archival Studies Certificate Program.

Additional comments:

None