STATEMENT OF MISSION, DISTINCTIVENESS, AND ASSESSMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
(adopted by the Department of History, March 2009)

- **Mission Statement**: The Mission of the BA in History Program is to educate students about the past by blending traditional and contemporary approaches to the study and teaching of history, and by emphasizing global perspectives while recognizing the value of local and regional history. Students will learn to analyze and interpret complex information, and to present coherent arguments about its meaning and significance. Graduates will have the critical thinking and communication skills necessary to succeed in a variety of careers or in further professional education. Consistent with the mission of the University, the Program fosters a culture of engagement that bridges theory with practice, extends the learning environment beyond the classroom, and promotes student growth and life success.

- **As a distinctive program in History, the Department of History:**
  - Maintains a student-centered curriculum that offers both traditional and thematic courses, and emphasizes global perspectives while recognizing the value of local and regional history;
  - Has strengths in Modern Global History, Southern History (especially Georgia and rural South), Women's and Gender History, and Military History;
  - Serves History Education and Pre-Law students;
  - Maintains a unique Departmental Honors sequence for History Majors in the University Honors Program, and;
  - Prepares graduates to enter the workforce or graduate school with the ability to think critically, gather and analyze data, conduct original research, and communicate clearly and persuasively, and;
  - Recruits and retains a Faculty of dedicated teacher-scholars, who are nationally and internationally known in their fields of expertise.

- **As academic historians who are active members of an academic culture, the Faculty of the Department of History:**
  - Values diversity of historical approaches, and;
  - Recognizes the importance of skills students need to succeed in an ever-changing global and technology-based job market, and;
  - Is dedicated to excellence in teaching and scholarship as means to improve the program and continue individual professional growth.

- **To maintain a climate supportive of this distinction, the Department of History:**
  - Seeks and utilizes collegial approaches to maintain a challenging curriculum and provide excellent instruction to undergraduate and graduate History majors, despite chronic understaffing and inadequate facilities;
  - Designs and maintains a curriculum to impart historical content (upper-level courses) and process (Historical Methods and Senior Seminar);
  - Maintains classroom caps for upper-level courses to ensure small class size;
Is prolific in scholarly output and professional participation, despite no dedicated funding per faculty member for research activities.

- To determine the progress of achieving this distinction, the Department of History will:
  - Annually assess student portfolios;
  - Assess student competitiveness for scholarships, internships, service learning opportunities, and undergraduate research opportunities;
  - Conduct exit surveys of graduates;
  - Survey placement of graduates in the work force and graduate programs;
  - Assess Faculty teaching and scholarly output through yearly reviews, tenure & promotion reviews, and post-tenure reviews.