

## Background

History 105 [ROOT] is the foundational first-year experience course for UCORE. The course introduces students to five of WSU’s Seven Learning Goals of Undergraduate Education by asking students to explore and understand the historical and global roots of various issues facing the world today.

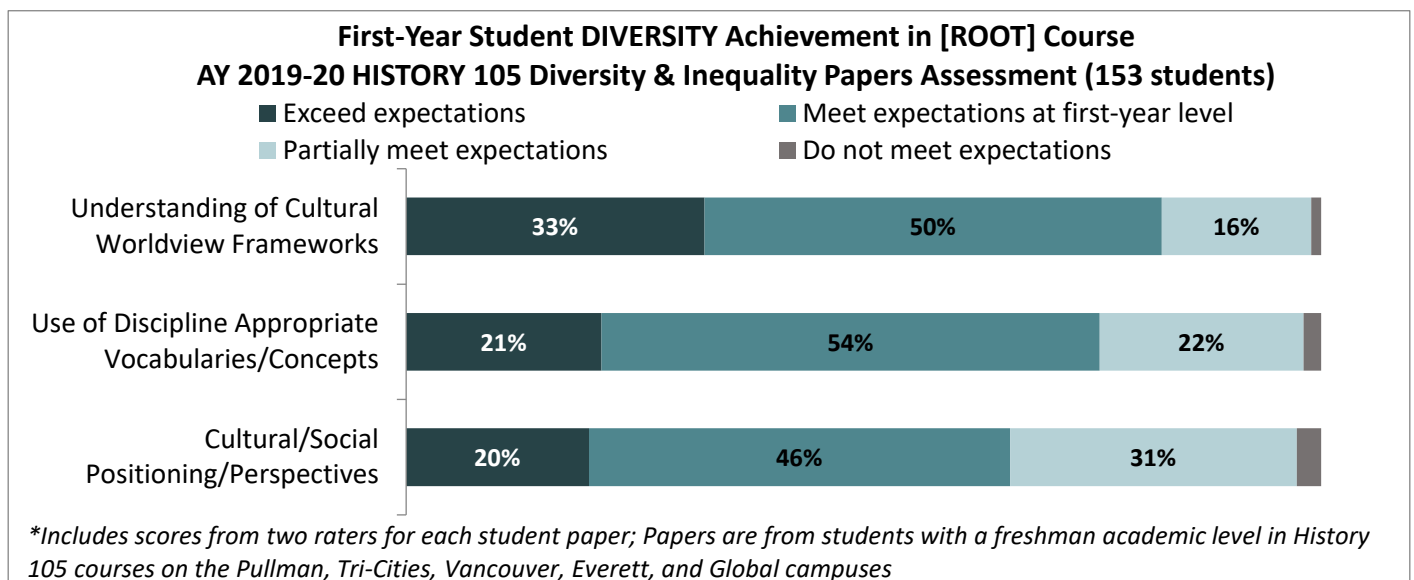
## Diversity & Inequality Papers Assessment

The *Roots of Contemporary Issues Diversity & Inequality Papers Assessment* is intended to provide [ROOT] faculty with information for program improvement, as well as gauge student learning on WSU’s Learning Goals at the first-year level. The AY 2019-20 Diversity & Inequality Papers Assessment focused on assessing WSU’s Diversity and Written Communication goals using 2-3 page response papers that ask students to address themes of inequality and diverse ways of thinking.

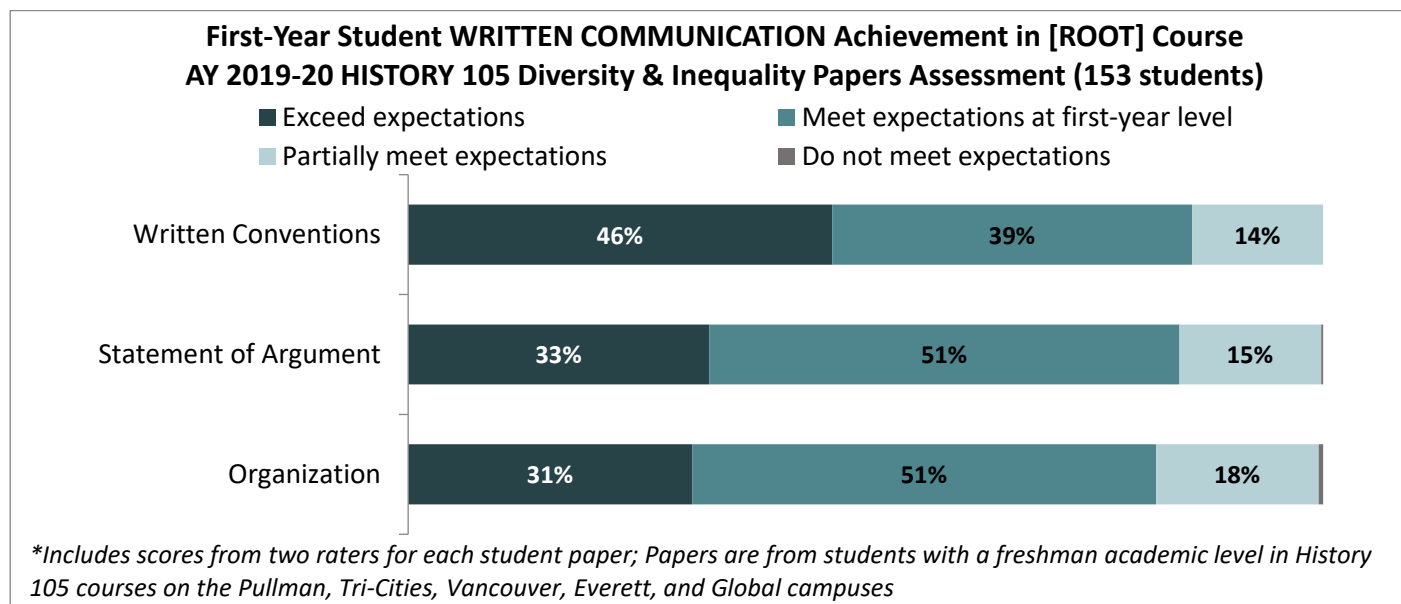
Each academic year since AY 2012-13, [ROOT] faculty have evaluated a random sample of students’ papers from all campuses using a faculty-developed rubric. [ROOT] Assessment includes the *Final Papers Assessment* (aligned with WSU’s Critical & Creative Thinking, Information Literacy, Communication, and Depth, Breadth, & Integration of Learning goals) and the *Diversity & Inequality Papers Assessment* (aligned with WSU’s Diversity and Communication goals), conducted biennially in alternating years starting in AY 2016-17. The Roots of Contemporary Issues program, in collaboration with the WSU Libraries and Office of Assessment of Teaching and Learning (ATL), coordinates the assessment, reporting, and data analysis for the *Roots of Contemporary Issues Diversity & Inequality Papers Assessment*.

## Results – First-Year Students

**DIVERSITY:** Results from the AY 2019-20 Roots of Contemporary Issues Diversity & Inequality Papers Assessment indicated that **83%** of first-year students met or exceeded expectations at the first-year undergraduate level for *demonstrating understanding of cultural worldview frameworks* in their UCORE first-year experience course [ROOT]. Additionally, **76%** met or exceeded expectations for *using discipline-appropriate vocabularies/concepts* and **66%** met or exceeded expectations for *demonstrating an understanding of cultural/social positioning/perspectives*.



**WRITTEN COMMUNICATION:** Results from the AY 2019-20 Roots of Contemporary Issues Diversity & Inequality Papers Assessment indicated that **86%** of first-year students met or exceeded expectations at the first-year undergraduate level for *following written conventions* in their UCORE first-year experience course [ROOT]. Additionally, **84%** met or exceeded expectations for *stating an argument* and **82%** met or exceeded expectations for *including an organizational structure*.



**COMPARISON TO AY 2017-18:** The percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations at the first-year undergraduate level was generally higher (average +6%) in AY 2019-20 compared to AY 2017-18 for the six elements assessed.

