

Program Assessment Plan

American University

Academic Program: SIS: Global Environmental Policy - MA

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Learning Outcome: Schools of Thought

Graduate students will be able to describe and distinguish among the major schools of thought for explaining Global Environmental Politics.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Comprehensive Exam that asks students theoretical questions about the field and demonstrates their writing and analytical ability. Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam	80% to attain a level of 4 on a scale of 1-7 based on the quality of organization, depth of knowledge of the literature, and the ability to integrate information and convey it with a clear argument.	Annual--exam questions to be revised based on results, beginning Spring 2010.	Yes
Faculty consultation. Measure Type: Other	75% each year to meet individually with faculty on SRP and general academic work to see if students are receiving proper mentorship.	Every two year -- faculty consultation to assess if our students are developing mentorship relationships with GEP faculty, beginning Spring 2011.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Research Project

Graduate students will be able to develop and execute research projects that integrate theory and empirical investigation, and that consciously employ sound social and science methodology.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Substantial Research Paper that demonstrates familiarity with relevant literature, analytical ability, and completion of a polished work. Measure Type: Written Assignment	80% to attain a level of 4 on a scale of 1-7 based on quality of organization, depth of knowledge of the literature, and ability to integrate information and convey it with a clear argument.	Annual -- SRP guidelines to be modified and supervision altered based on results, beginning Fall 2010.	Yes
Faculty consultation. Measure Type: Other	75% each year to meet individually with faculty on SRP and general academic work to see if students are receiving proper mentorship.	Every two year -- faculty consultation to assess if our students are developing mentorship relationships with GEP faculty, beginning Spring 2011.	Yes

Learning Outcome: World-Scale Theory

Graduate students will be able to understand theoretically and empirically (including historically) the drivers of environmental harm, and possess conceptual clarity about the world political system and how it can respond to the challenges of environmental degradation on a world scale. This includes foundational knowledge in Global Environmental Policy (primary field), Environmental Science (related field) and Economics.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

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Faculty consultation. Measure Type: Other	75% each year to meet individually with faculty on SRP and general academic work to see if students are receiving proper mentorship.	Every two year -- faculty consultation to assess if our students are developing mentorship relationships with GEP faculty, beginning Spring 2011.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Communication Skills

Graduate students will develop verbal and written communication skills to convey knowledge effectively.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

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Substantial Research Paper that demonstrates familiarity with relevant literature, analytical ability, and completion of a polished work. Measure Type: Written Assignment	80% to attain a level of 4 on a scale of 1-7 based on quality of organization, depth of knowledge of the literature, and ability to integrate information and convey it with a clear argument.	Annual -- SRP guidelines to be modified and supervision altered based on results, beginning Fall 2010.	Yes
Written assignments and class presentation. Measure Type: Written Assignment	75% to show marked improvement over two years in terms of basic writing and speaking skills, clarity, poise, and ability to conduct research.	Every four years -- faculty consultation on how to develop basic skills, based on results, and amendment of syllabi to include more remedial work if necessary, beginning Spring 2010.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Methodologies

Graduate students will be able to understand and employ social and natural science methodologies.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
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Learning Outcome: Second Language

Graduate students will be able to speak, write, and read a second language at the intermediate level.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Language Facility Test. Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam	100% to pass the test that measures basic competence in the language as a research tool.	Every two years -- admissions criteria to be reevaluated based on results, beginning Spring 2011.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Professional Skills

Graduate students will develop hands-on professional skills such as: ability to conduct environmental impact assessment, evaluate eco-development financing projects, use Geographical Information Systems software, conduct LEED assessments, and design energy or green roof proposals for potential clients.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Internship evaluation from internship supervisors. Measure Type: Field Work/ Internship	80% to receive strong positive evaluations based on supervisor's perceptions of the student's strength and weaknesses in the professional setting (all of those doing internships).	Every four years -- faculty consultation on how to develop basic skills, based on results, and amendment of syllabi to include more remedial work if necessary, beginning Spring 2010.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Policy-Making Experience

Graduate students will develop experience in the policy-making process through internships, lobbying experience and participation in public policy forums.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Internship evaluation from internship supervisors. Measure Type: Field Work/ Internship	80% to receive strong positive evaluations based on supervisor's perceptions of the student's strength and weaknesses in the professional setting (all of those doing internships).	Every four years -- faculty consultation on how to develop basic skills, based on results, and amendment of syllabi to include more remedial work if necessary, beginning Spring 2010.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Global Governance System

Graduate students will understand the architecture of the global environmental governance system--actors and processes--and be able to analyze the promises and shortcomings of the system for addressing transboundary environmental challenges.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

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