

Program Assessment Plan

American University

Academic Program: SIS: International Peace and Conflict Resolution - MA

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Program Mission: IPCR focuses on the causes of war and organized violence, the conditions of peace, and the processes of conflict analysis and resolution. IPCR is founded on the belief that violence is neither necessary or inevitable, and that change toward social justice and sustainable peace can best be approached from a collaborative and humanistic perspective that engages people in constructive conflict resolution.

Contact Person for Ronald Fisher

Assessment:

Unit Website Address: www.american.edu/sis/ipcr

Unit's Primary Department: Intl Peace/Conflic Res.

COLA last discussed report 03/11/2011

with unit on:

Learning Outcome: Concepts and Methods

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major concepts and methods in peace and conflict resolution.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Direct: Successful completion of term papers, examinations and conceptual presentations as required in SIS-607, 609, 606, 610 (IPCR core courses). Specific criteria need to be developed here. Measure Type: Written Assignment	100% of graduates should demonstrate adequate or better understanding and knowledge. This is demonstrated by successful completion of the core courses and by passing the comprehensive exam, which is a section in the SRP or thesis.	Data is collected at the end of each semester. Data will be reviewed by IPCR core faculty at subsequent meetings.	Yes
Indirect Measure: Feedback from students at IPCR Annual Retreats and Town Hall Meetings, specifically on the effectiveness of the core courses in imparting the basics of the field. Measure Type: Other	General satisfaction with core course learning outcomes as expressed at the IPCR Annual Retreat (latest was April 15, 2011.	Data is collected annually. Data will be reviewed by IPCR core faculty at subsequent meetings.	Yes

Related Courses

- SIS-606 - Culture and Peace and Conflict Resolution
- SIS-607 - Peace Paradigms
- SIS-609 - Conflict Analysis and Resolution: Theory and Practice
- SIS-610 - Theory of Conflict, Violence and War

Learning Outcome: Specialized Knowledge

Students will acquire knowledge in an area of concentration (stream) within their degree program.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Students are now required to complete the IPCR CAP (Candidate Academic Plan) form which lays out the courses and rationale for their area of concentration. The development of	100% of graduates are required to declare and complete an area of concentration (related field,	CAP forms are completed by first year students during the Spring or Summer semester with the	Yes

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Learning Outcomes for each area of concentration will enable the development of measures to assess this Outcome. Learning Outcomes for each of the six areas of concentration were developed by faculty in those areas during the 2010-2011 academic year, and were discussed at the IPCR Annual Retreat in April and subsequently finalized for usage. Measure Type: Other	area of concentration, or unique concentration) as part of their degree program.	advice of the IPCR Graduate Adviser and a Faculty Member in their area of concentration if necessary.	

Learning Outcome: Research Projects

Students will develop and execute research projects integrating theory and analysis.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Direct measure: Assessment of the quality of Substantial Research Papers and Theses: Faculty supervisors will rate SRPs and Theses on a 5-point scale on the quality of integrating theory and data analysis from outstanding (5) to satisfactory (1). Starting with the 2011-2012 academic year, this rating scale has been added to the Comprehensive Exam Form to be filled out at the completion of the student's Substantial Research Paper or Thesis, so that faculty supervisors can automatically record their rating which will then be compiled with all the ratings at the end of the academic year for reporting purposes. Measure Type: Written Assignment	100% of graduates will distribute on the 5-point scale with 75% in the very good to outstanding categories. 5. Outstanding 4. Excellent 3. Very Good 2. Good 1. Satisfactory	Data is collected at the end of each semester and will be reviewed by IPCR core faculty at subsequent meetings.	Yes
Indirect measure: Feedback from students at IPCR Annual Retreat and Town Hall Meeting, specifically on the research experience. Measure Type: Other	General satisfaction with the research experience by students and faculty at the IPCR Annual Retreat. At this past April's retreat, discussion focused on confirming several research competencies that were developed as sub outcomes to the Research Projects Learning Outcome.	Data is collected annually and will be reviewed by IPCR core faculty at subsequent meetings.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Communication Skills

Students will demonstrate their writing and speaking skills so they can clearly and effectively convey their knowledge.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
The IPCR Program intends to develop a standardized evaluation sheet to assess student presentations in the core courses, both for individuals and team presentations. Results from the evaluation sheets will then be shared and discussed with a view to improving student presentations. Measure Type:			Yes

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Presentation			

Learning Outcome: Foreign Language

Students will demonstrate the capacity to speak, write and read a foreign language.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
The IPCR Program is not responsible for assessing this Learning Outcome.			Yes

Learning Outcome: Economics Theory

Students will be able to apply concepts and theories from international economics to issues of peace and mass violence.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/12/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
This outcome is currently assessed by the completion of SIS-696, Economics of Violence and Peace or related courses in Economics. There is a need to develop more specific learning outcome. Measure Type: Written Assignment	No measure identified.	No target identified.	Yes