

Program Assessment Plan
 American University
 Academic Program: SPA: Public Policy - MPP

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Contact Person for Jocelyn Johnston

Assessment:

Unit Website Address: www.american.edu/spa/dpap/

Unit's Primary Department: Public Admin/Policy

Learning Outcome: Analysis and Advice

Graduating students will demonstrate the capacity to provide quantitative and qualitative analysis and advice to policy makers in a variety of institutional settings in the U.S. and abroad.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

2011-2012

Start Date: 11/01/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>Assessment of all assignments for each student in the practicum course: PUAD-688, Policy Practicum. These assignments measure students' ability to analyze a real policy issues facing a local, state, or federal public or nonprofit organization in a final course paper. All students' assignments must apply analytical tools and other materials learned throughout their MPP program of study to evaluate and analyze relevant policy issues and to propose recommendations. There is also a 48-hour project on a real-world problem in which students are presented a problem and asked to offer an analysis of the problem and alternatives. Students are expected to produce a level of work reflective of a graduate student at the end of his/ her course of study. The work must also demonstrate an ability to analyze problems and propose solutions that demonstrate a breadth and depth of knowledge and application required from studying a comprehensive MPP program. Students are expected to demonstrate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the capacity to provide quality and quantitative analysis and advice to policy makers in a variety of institutional settings in the U.S. and abroad; 2. a clear understanding of the public policy makers function; and 3. the capacity to blend and synthesize analytical, contextual, ethical and substantive skills and knowledge in order to advance the quality of advice given to policy makers. <p>Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project</p>	<p>80 percent of students will meet the learning outcomes for the practicum course which is intended to measure all 4 objectives (B or better).</p>		Yes
<p>Assignments for PUAD-601 and PUAD-602, Methods of Problem Solving I and II. These require students to apply a range of analytic techniques to specific policy issues. These courses equip students with techniques and strategies to enhance their analytic and decision making skills, and to facilitate their interpretation of statistics and statistical reports, studies, evaluations, etc., in administrative work and in the creation or implementation of public policies.</p> <p>Measure Type: Written Assignment</p>	<p>85% satisfactory completion of PUAD-601 and PUAD-602, Methods of Problem Solving I and II (B or better).</p>	<p>PUAD-601 and PUAD-602 performance data is collected by MPP faculty each semester, and is reviewed and assessed in annual MPP faculty assessment meeting. Measure includes overall faculty impression of student performance. Data on student performance in PUAD-601 and PUAD-602 were to be reported annually in a regularly scheduled faculty meeting dedicated to assessment. Action would be</p>	Yes

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
		recommended at that time, based on faculty decision, if performance problems are evident.	
<p>Student exit survey to assess the extent to which their MPP courses met the learning outcome outlined above, and to convey their perception of their preparedness to enter the profession. Also use of reflective essay, and perceptions of faculty teaching courses.</p> <p>Measure Type: Survey</p>	<p>80% of students will report in exit survey that courses prepared them for entry into the field (because some are already employed).</p> <p>80% of students will self-report preparedness in a reflective essay (because some are already employed).</p> <p>Faculty teaching practicum course assess preparedness.</p>	<p>Student exit survey data collected each semester. Students complete the exit survey in the weeks prior to their graduation. Survey data is reviewed by the Exit Survey coordinator (originally Jocelyn Johnston and now Anna Amirkanyan) and DPAP Chair. Data on exit surveys is made available and reported annually in a regularly scheduled faculty meeting dedicated to assessment. During the annual meeting, faculty will assess outcomes and student performance, and will recommend remedial action as necessary (e.g., revise curriculum to better address specific weaknesses, etc.)</p>	Yes

Related Courses

- PUAD-601 - Methods of Problem Solving I
- PUAD-602 - Methods of Problem Solving II
- PUAD-688 - Policy Practicum

Learning Outcome: Public Policy Environment

Graduating students will demonstrate the capacity to understand and take into account when providing analyses and advice the public policy environments in which such policy makers function.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011
2011-2012

Start Date: 11/01/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>Assessment of all assignments for each student in the practicum course: PUAD-688, Policy Practicum. These assignments measure students' ability to analyze a real policy issues facing a local, state, or federal public or nonprofit organization in a final course paper. All students' assignments must apply analytical tools and other materials learned throughout their MPP program of study to evaluate and analyze relevant policy issues and to propose recommendations. There is also a 48-hour project on a real-world problem in which students are presented a problem and asked to offer an analysis of the problem and alternatives. Students are expected to produce a level of work reflective of a graduate student at the end of his/ her course of study. The work must also demonstrate an ability to analyze problems and propose solutions that demonstrate a breadth and depth of</p>	<p>80 percent of students will meet the learning outcomes for the practicum course which is intended to measure all 4 objectives (B or better).</p>		Yes

Assessment Plan

Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>knowledge and application required from studying a comprehensive MPP program. Students are expected to demonstrate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the capacity to provide quality and quantitative analysis and advice to policy makers in a variety of institutional settings in the U.S. and abroad; 2. a clear understanding of the public policy makers function; and 3. the capacity to blend and synthesize analytical, contextual, ethical and substantive skills and knowledge in order to advance the quality of advice given to policy makers. <p>Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project</p>			
<p>Student exit survey to assess the extent to which their MPP courses met the learning outcome outlined above, and to convey their perception of their preparedness to enter the profession. Also use of reflective essay, and perceptions of faculty teaching courses.</p> <p>Measure Type: Survey</p>	<p>80% of students will report in exit survey that courses prepared them for entry into the field (because some are already employed).</p> <p>80% of students will self-report preparedness in a reflective essay (because some are already employed).</p> <p>Faculty teaching practicum course assess preparedness.</p>	<p>Student exit survey data collected each semester. Students complete the exit survey in the weeks prior to their graduation. Survey data is reviewed by the Exit Survey coordinator (originally Jocelyn Johnston and now Anna Amirkanyan) and DPAP Chair. Data on exit surveys is made available and reported annually in a regularly scheduled faculty meeting dedicated to assessment. During the annual meeting, faculty will assess outcomes and student performance, and will recommend remedial action as necessary (e.g., revise curriculum to better address specific weaknesses, etc.)</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Assignments for PUAD-601 and PUAD-602, Methods of Problem Solving I and II. these require students to apply a range of analytic techniques to specific policy issues. These courses equip students with techniques and strategies to enhance their analytic and decision making skills, and to facilitate their interpretation of statistics and statistical reports, studies, evaluations, etc., in administrative work and in the creation or implementation of public policies.</p> <p>Measure Type: Written Assignment</p>	<p>85% satisfactory completion of PUAD-601 and PUAD-602, Methods of Problem Solving I and II (B or better).</p>	<p>PUAD-601 and PUAD-602 performance data is collected by MPP faculty each semester, and is reviewed and assessed in annual MPP faculty assessment meeting. Measure includes overall faculty impression of student performance. Data on student performance in PUAD-601 and PUAD-602 were to be reported annually in a regularly scheduled faculty meeting dedicated to assessment. Action would be recommended at that time, based on faculty decision, if performance problems are evident.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Related Courses

- PUAD-601 - Methods of Problem Solving I
- PUAD-602 - Methods of Problem Solving II
- PUAD-688 - Policy Practicum

Learning Outcome: Advance Quality of Advice

Graduating students will demonstrate the capacity to blend analytical, contextual (political, social, economic, organizational, and constitutional), ethical, and substantive skills and knowledge in order to advance the quality of advice given to policy makers.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011
2011-2012

Start Date: 11/01/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>Assessment of all assignments for each student in the practicum course: PUAD-688, Policy Practicum. These assignments measure students' ability to analyze a real policy issues facing a local, state, or federal public or nonprofit organization in a final course paper. All students' assignments must apply analytical tools and other materials learned throughout their MPP program of study to evaluate and analyze relevant policy issues and to propose recommendations. There is also a 48-hour project on a real-world problem in which students are presented a problem and asked to offer an analysis of the problem and alternatives. Students are expected to produce a level of work reflective of a graduate student at the end of his/ her course of study. The work must also demonstrate an ability to analyze problems and propose solutions that demonstrate a breadth and depth of knowledge and application required from studying a comprehensive MPP program. Students are expected to demonstrate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the capacity to provide quality and quantitative analysis and advice to policy makers in a variety of institutional settings in the U.S. and abroad; 2. a clear understanding of the public policy makers function; and 3. the capacity to blend and synthesize analytical, contextual, ethical and substantive skills and knowledge in order to advance the quality of advice given to policy makers. <p>Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project</p>	<p>80 percent of students will meet the learning outcomes for the practicum course which is intended to measure all 4 objectives (B or better).</p>		Yes
<p>Student exit survey to assess the extent to which their MPP courses met the learning outcome outlined above, and to convey their perception of their preparedness to enter the profession. Also use of reflective essay, and perceptions of faculty teaching courses.</p> <p>Measure Type: Survey</p>	<p>80% of students will report in exit survey that courses prepared them for entry into the field (because some are already employed). 80% of students will self-report preparedness in a reflective essay (because some are already employed). Faculty teaching practicum course assess preparedness.</p>	<p>Student exit survey data collected each semester. Students complete the exit survey in the weeks prior to their graduation. Survey data is reviewed by the Exit Survey coordinator (originally Jocelyn Johnston and now Anna Amirkanyan) and DPAP Chair. Data on exit surveys is made available and reported annually in a regularly scheduled faculty meeting dedicated to assessment. During the annual meeting, faculty will assess outcomes and student performance, and will recommend remedial action as necessary (e.g., revise curriculum to better address specific weaknesses, etc.)</p>	Yes
<p>Assignments for PUAD-601 and PUAD-602, Methods of Problem Solving I and II. these require students to apply a range of analytic techniques to specific policy issues.</p>	<p>85% satisfactory completion of PUAD-601 and PUAD-602, Methods of Problem Solving I</p>	<p>PUAD-601 and PUAD-602 performance data is collected by MPP faculty each semester, and</p>	Yes

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>These courses equip students with techniques and strategies to enhance their analytic and decision making skills, and to facilitate their interpretation of statistics and statistical reports, studies, evaluations, etc., in administrative work and in the creation or implementation of public policies.</p> <p>Measure Type: Written Assignment</p>	and II (B or better).	is reviewed and assessed in annual MPP faculty assessment meeting. Measure includes overall faculty impression of student performance. Data on student performance in PUAD-601 and PUAD-602 were to be reported annually in a regularly scheduled faculty meeting dedicated to assessment. Action would be recommended at that time, based on faculty decision, if performance problems are evident.	

Related Courses

- PUAD-601 - Methods of Problem Solving I
- PUAD-602 - Methods of Problem Solving II
- PUAD-688 - Policy Practicum

Learning Outcome: Comprehensive Approach

Graduating students will demonstrate the capacity to synthesize material in a comprehensive approach to policy analysis.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011
2011-2012

Start Date: 11/01/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
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Assessment Plan

Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Final Paper/ Final Project			
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Related Courses

- PUAD-601 - Methods of Problem Solving I
- PUAD-602 - Methods of Problem Solving II
- PUAD-688 - Policy Practicum