



## Public Policy (M.P.P.)

Department Website: <http://www.american.edu/spa/dpap/degrees/MPP-PPOL.cfm>

### 1. Learning Outcomes

MPP students will demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and values needed to function with distinction throughout their careers at different levels of responsibility within the U.S. constitutional context and abroad. More specifically, graduating students will demonstrate the capacity to:

1. provide quantitative and qualitative analysis and advice to policy makers in a variety of institutional settings in the U.S. and abroad;
2. understand and take into account when providing analyses and advice the public policy environments in which such policy makers function; and
3. 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.
4. synthesize material in a comprehensive approach to policy analysis.

## 2. Assessment Plan

Measures	Target	Learning Outcomes	Cycle and Reviewers
<p><b>Direct Measure:</b></p> <p>assessment of all assignments for each student in the practicum course:</p> <p>Performance in PUAD-688, Policy Practicum, MPP practicum course.</p> <p>These assignments measure students' ability to analyze a real policy issue 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.</p> <p>There is also a 48-hour</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> <p>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 in a comprehensive MPP program. Students are expected to demonstrate:</p> <p>1. the capacity to provide qualitative and quantitative analysis and advice to policy makers in a variety of institutional settings in the U.S. and abroad;</p>	<p>Outcomes 1-4</p> <p>Percentage of students passing class have exceeded that level.</p> <p>See results of student exit surveys and faculty evaluations in Section #3 below.</p>	<p>For all 4 outcomes:</p> <p>Once per year, practicum faculty will meet to review measures/data and assess performance in the context of DPAP specified learning outcomes. Practicum faculty will formulate recommendations, as appropriate, to alter course and teaching materials in order to maintain achievement of learning outcomes.</p> <p>Data on student performance in the practicum course will be reported annually in a regularly scheduled general faculty meeting dedicated to assessment.</p> <p>Faculty responsible for teaching the practicum course will report performance data annually to the department at large. Action will be recommended at that time, based on faculty decisions, if performance problems are evident.</p> <p>Cycle: Faculty responsible for teaching the</p>

<p>project on a real-world problem in which students are presented a problem and asked to offer an analysis of the problem and alternatives.</p>	<p>2. a clear understanding of the public policy environments in which such policy makers function; and</p> <p>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>		<p>practicum course will report performance data annually to the department at large. Action will be recommended at that time, based on faculty decisions, if performance problems are evident.</p> <p>Assessment of learning outcomes will occur annually, in this faculty assessment meeting.</p>
<p><b>Indirect Measure:</b></p> <p>Student exit survey to assess the extent to which their MPP courses met the learning outcomes outlined above, and to convey their perceptions of their preparedness to enter the profession. Also use of reflective essay, and perceptions of faculty teaching these courses..</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 reflective essay (because some are already employed).</p> <p>Faculty teaching practicum course assess preparedness.</p>	<p>Outcomes 1-4</p> <p>Percentage has exceeded goal and increased gradually over last 12 semesters (see Section 3 below).</p> <p>Faculty teaching practicum feel that most students meet this criteria (earning a B or better)</p>	<p>Student exit survey data collected each semester. Students complete the exit survey in the weeks prior to their graduation.</p> <p>Survey data is reviewed by the Exit Survey coordinator (originally Jocelyn Johnston and now Anna Amirkanyan) and DPAP Chair.</p> <p>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><b>Direct measure:</b></p> <p>Assignments for PUAD 601 and 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 602, Methods of Problem Solving I and II (B or better).</p> <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>Satisfactory completion of assignments in PUAD 601 and 602, which require the application of a range of analytic techniques</p>	<p><b>Outcomes: 1-4</b></p> <p>Over the past 12 semesters, percentages exceed target, with trend consistent.</p>	<p>PUAD 6601 and 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,</p> <p>Data on student performance in PUAD 601 and 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 decisions, if performance problems are evident.</p> <p>Assessment of learning outcomes would occur annually, in this faculty assessment meeting.</p>
<p><b>Indirect Measure:</b></p> <p>Students complete an exit survey designed, in part, to assess the extent to which their MPP courses meet the learning outcomes outlined above.</p>	<p>Same as preceding section.</p>	<p>Same as preceding section.</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 and DPAP Chair.</p> <p>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</p>

			assess outcomes and student performance, and will recommend remedial action as necessary (e.g., revise curriculum to better address specific weaknesses, etc).
--	--	--	--

