



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, D C

Public Administration (M.P.A.)

Department Website: <http://www.american.edu/spa/index.cfm>

1. Learning Outcomes

MPA 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. Manage public service organizations and/or organizations related to the public sector (e.g., nonprofit agencies);
2. Understand the public policy environments in which such organizations function and take these conditions into account in administrative action;
3. Apply quantitative and qualitative analytic techniques in order to enhance administrative and policy decisions.
4. Analyze a real administrative issue facing a local, state, or federal public or nonprofit organization and/or evaluate and analyze relevant managerial or administrative problem(s) and to propose recommendations.

2. Assessment Plan

Measures	Target	Learning Outcomes	Cycle and Reviewers
<p>Direct Measure: Performance in MPA capstone course, as assessed by faculty responsible for teaching the course. Measure includes assessment of all assignments for each student, for all students.</p>	<p>Preponderance of students meet standards established in MPA capstone course. To satisfactorily complete the course, students must apply analytical tools and use other materials learned throughout their MPA program of study to real world situations</p> <p>The expectation is that students will be prepared to synthesize material from previous courses in a comprehensive approach to management analysis.</p> <p>In addition, students must satisfactorily complete a</p>	<p>1-4</p>	<p>Direct Measure:</p> <p>Once per year, capstone faculty will meet to review measures/data and assess performance in the context of DPAP specified learning outcomes. Capstone faculty will formulate recommendations, as appropriate, to alter course and teaching materials in order to maintain achievement of learning outcomes.</p> <p>Measure includes discussion of students work on various projects and applied assignments and overall faculty impression of student performance, as specified under Measures and Target.</p> <p>Data on student performance in the capstone course will be reported annually in a regularly scheduled general faculty meeting dedicated to assessment.</p> <p>Faculty responsible for teaching</p>

	comprehensive reflective essay designed to analyze the impact of the MPA curriculum and experience on their professional development.		<p>the capstone 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>Indirect Measure: Students complete an exit survey designed, in part, to assess the extent to which their MPA courses met the learning outcomes outlined above, and to convey their perceptions of their preparedness to enter the profession.</p>	A significant percentage% will report that the courses prepared them for entry into the field	1-4	<p>Indirect Measure: 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 (currently Johnston) 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>Direct Measure: Satisfactory completion of all assignments for PUAD 605, Problem Solving for Managers (see description in Target column). Assignments in PUAD 605 require students to apply quantitative techniques to address administrative/policy decision making situations.</p>	<p>Satisfactory completion of PUAD 605, Problem Solving for Managers. This course equips 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 605, which require the application of quantitative techniques in administrative/policy decision making.</p> <p>A passing grade is</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Direct Measure: PUAD 605 performance data is collected by capstone faculty each semester, and is reviewed and assessed in annual PUAD 605 faculty assessment meeting. Measure includes student grades and overall faculty impression of student performance, as specified under Measures and Target.</p> <p>Once per year, PUAD 605 faculty will meet to review measures/data and assess performance in the context of DPAP specified learning outcomes. Faculty will make recommendations, as appropriate, to alter course and teaching materials in order to maintain achievement of learning outcomes.</p> <p>Faculty responsible for teaching PUAD 605 will also 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>
--	---	----------	--

	required for credit and for satisfactory completion of this course.		Assessment of learning outcomes will occur annually, in this faculty assessment meeting.
Indirect Measure: Students complete an exit survey designed, in part, to assess the extent to which their MPA courses met the learning outcomes outlined above, including the capacity to apply quantitative techniques to enhance administrative and policy decisions.		1-4	<p>Indirect Measure: 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 (currently Johnston) 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>