### Academic Program: SPA: Public Policy - MPP

**Contact Person for Assessment:** Jocelyn Johnston

**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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment Measure</th>
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<td>80 percent of students will meet the learning outcomes for the practicum course which is intended to measure all 4 objectives (B or better).</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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### 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

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knowledge and application required from studying a comprehensive MPP program. Students are expected to demonstrate:

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.

**Measure Type:**
Final Paper/ Final Project

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.

**Measure Type:**
Survey

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.

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.)

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.

**Measure Type:**
Written Assignment

85% satisfactory completion of PUAD-601 and PUAD-602, Methods of Problem Solving I and II (B or better).

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.

**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

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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. **Measure Type:** Final Paper/ Final Project | 80 percent of students will meet the learning outcomes for the practicum course which is intended to measure all 4 objectives (B or better). | Yes |

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. **Measure Type:** Survey

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.). **Measure Type:** Yes |

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. **Measure Type:** Yes |

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Measure Type: Written Assignment

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

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#### Measure Type:
Survey

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**Measure Type:**
Written Assignment

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