

Program Assessment Plan

Department Name: Policy and Administration
Major: MPA PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Student Learning Goals:

Graduates of the MPA program should be able to:

1.	Articulate understanding of the politics–administration dichotomy.
2.	Display familiarity with the differences and similarities between governance in the public and private sectors.
3.	Exhibit an awareness of the role of ethics in the public sector.
4.	Delineate the applicability of public administration models/theories in today’s world.
5.	Defend their choices of the people they believe have made major contributions to public administration.
6.	Explain the part that equity, equal employment opportunity, diversity, and affirmative action play in today’s world of applied public administration.

Assessment Plan:

Assessment Measure:	Goals Addressed: (list by number)	How is the information used?
Two exams and a research paper are assigned in the PUBADM 600 Assessment capstone course, which is a required course for all graduating students. Students must write two essay exams centered on core concepts and write a research paper that links a core concept to their workplace.	1,2,3, 4, 5, 6	The instructor grades exams and the results are shared with faculty members who teach in the core areas and also serve as a talking point during the regularly scheduled department meeting each semester.
Exit interviews conducted in the capstone course (PUBADM 600). Part of the formal critique centers on core concepts of public administration (as delineated in the student goals).	1,2,3, 4, 5, 6	The information from the exit interviews is summarized by the Director of the Graduate program and disseminated to all faculty members, the Dean of the College and the Provost of the University. The results of the exit interviews serve as a major discussion point at the semi-annual department meetings and are reviewed as part of the Department’s re-accreditation process.
Students complete an assessment of every course offering in the MPA program. This student assessment is completed in every class, for every instructor, every semester, including the classes most aligned with the goals stated above: PUBADM 500 Introduction to Public Administration; PUBADM 571 Ethics in Public Administration; PUBADM 600 Assessment (capstone)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	The Department Chair reviews student assessments of every class. A summary (listing Department minimum, maximum, and average scores) is created and distributed to all faculty members and the Dean of the College. The Department Chair then meets with each faculty member to provide an in-depth assessment of the student assessments. These assessments are reviewed by outside site visitors as part of the re-accreditation process.

Assessment Measure:	Goals Addressed: (list by number)	How is the information used?
Each fall, the MPA Student Association invites alumni back to campus to conduct a seminar on how the concepts learned in the MPA program are actually applied in the public sector.	1,2,3, 4, 5, 6	The information from these seminars is summarized by the Director of the Graduate program and disseminated to all faculty members, the Dean of the College and the Provost of the University. The results of the exit interviews serve as a major discussion point at the semi-annual department meetings and are reviewed as part of the Department's re-accreditation process.

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