

Program: Public Administration

Academic Program Assessment Plan (2017-2018)

1. Please review last year's assessment results (2016-2017) as well as the Academic Program Assessment Report with the faculty in your program. How does your program plan to take these results into consideration in future programmatic planning?

The most recent program assessment (2016-2017) included CCQ question responses to assess various learning outcomes, but this was the only year in which this method was used. While the initial results were positive, the department recently met to create a more comprehensive and consistent plan with an emphasis on student performance in core courses.

2. Please review your program's Learning Outcomes. Do any of them need to be updated or clarified?
 - a. Please provide brief indications of the kinds of assessment (e.g. course exams, term papers, course projects, senior seminar, senior interview, etc.) that might be used to assess each outcome. (The purpose here is to see that your program has considered ways it might measure each outcome.)

In our recent discussions as a department, the general consensus was to move forward using course projects and primary course assignments to assess the majority of our learning outcomes.

- b. Please compare your Learning Outcomes to the University's main learning objectives: interdisciplinary, problem-focused education; critical thinking; diversity; environmental sustainability; and engaged citizenship. (These objectives were identified in the MLLO Project, which may be found here: <http://www.uwgb.edu/MLLO/>.) Which programmatic outcomes match university mission outcomes?

In many ways, nearly all of the university's main learning objectives define the field of public administration. For example, the discipline is fundamentally interdisciplinary, as skills associated with business, public policy, accounting, finance, human resources, emergency management, and communications are required to be a successful public or nonprofit manager. Problem solving is inherent to management and, as a result, critical thinking skills are required. Since equity is a core tenant of public administration, administrators must provide services to diverse populations and ensure all groups are represented in the provision of goods and services. Finally, engaging in public and nonprofit management is tantamount to being an engaged citizen.

As a result, the programmatic outcomes directly address interdisciplinarity, engaged citizenship, critical thinking, and problem solving. Gaining and maintaining employment in the field indirectly requires attention to both diversity and sustainability.

3. Which outcome will you assess this year (2017-2018)?

In 2017-2018, Public Administration will assess two outcomes.

- 3. Express knowledge of the concepts, principles, and theories of public administration.
- 6. Locate, analyze, and create research reports in the field of public administration.

4. Which technique will you use to assess this outcome?

Learning outcome 3 will be assessed in PUENAF 315 (Public and Nonprofit Management). Specifically, students are required to complete a field research project. To complete the project, students must apply four management concepts/theories to an organization in the community and analyze the connections or deviations. Student grades on the project will be used to indicate whether the outcome has been met.

Learning outcome 6 will be assessed in PUENAF 408 (Public Policy Analysis). Specifically, students are required to complete individual policy analysis projects based on research, data analysis, and an assessment of existing policies and reports. Student grades on the project will be used to indicate whether the outcome has been met.

Both of these courses are upper-level, core courses that all majors must take in order to graduate with a degree in Public Administration.

5. Which course or group of students will you assess on the outcome chosen above and when?

All Public Administration majors in PUENAF 315 will be assessed for learning outcome 3 and all Public Administration majors in PUENAF 408 will be assessed for learning outcome 7.