



Public Administration | 2017-2018 Assessment Report

Public Administration Learning Outcomes

1. Have the skills necessary to be an engaged citizen (PU EN AF 426).
2. Demonstrate knowledge of American government institutions and political processes (POL SCI-101, 316, 410; PU EN AF-202, 215, 301, 306, 314, 408, 406).
3. Express knowledge of the concepts, principles, and theories in public administration (PU EN AF-215, 315, 408, 415).
4. Engage in ethical decision-making and critical thinking in public administration (PU EN AF 430).
5. Communicate clearly and effectively within the field of public administration (all courses).
6. Locate, analyze and create research reports in the field of public administration (PU EN AF-202, 215, 315, 408, among others).
7. Qualify for graduate work in schools of public or nonprofit administration, public affairs, planning, policy, or related fields, or qualify for entry level professional employment in government and nonprofit organizations (all courses).

1. Please give a brief overview of the assessment data you collected this year.

To assess the selected learning outcomes, student grades from two projects, in two separate courses, were collected and grouped into three categories—learning outcome is exceeded, learning outcome is met, and learning outcome is not met.

The first listed outcome was assessed in PU EN AF 315 (Public and Nonprofit Management) from a field research project. In this course, and in this project specifically, students must apply four management concepts/theories to an organization in the community and analyze the connections or deviations.

The second listed outcome was assessed in PU EN AF 408 (Public Policy Analysis) from an individual policy analysis project. The project is based on research, data analysis, and an assessment of existing policies and reports.

Please see the table below for the results of the assessment.

Learning Outcome	Learning outcome is exceeded*	Learning outcome is met	Learning outcome is not met
Express knowledge of the concepts, principles, and theories of public administration.	30	15	4
Locate, analyze, and create research reports in the field of public administration.	22	13	2

*Exceeded: A or AB grade; Met: B or C; Not Met: D or below.

2. How will you use what you've learned from the data that was collected?

The table indicates that the vast majority of our students exceeded or met expectations regarding the two assessed learning outcomes. Students are able to successfully apply concepts, principals, and theories of public administration to practical experiences. Additionally, students are able to locate, analyze, and create research reports in the field of public administration.

However, several students did not meet the learning outcomes. Four did not meet the first outcome and two did not meet the second. While these students represent less than 10% of the total students in each class, it is important to determine why students are not meeting expectations. We are scheduled to hold a faculty meeting in September to discuss the results and potential strategies to ensure students, even a small minority, do not slip through the cracks.

Finally, PEA faculty are currently in the process of examining and making minor changes to the major's learning outcomes and curricular requirements. Based on these changes, we will revisit our assessment process in order to ensure that it aligns with learning goals.