



Urban & Regional Studies | 2016-2017 Assessment Plan

1. Please review last year's assessment results (2015-2016) 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?

Program faculty regularly discuss program strengths, achievements, weaknesses at bi-weekly meetings throughout the year. We make continuous improvements to the program in terms of course array and teaching methods. All faculty are also encouraged to participate in teaching improvement activities available on campus and from UW System. As a unit, we highly value engagement with professional peers to improve subject matter currency and make connections for our students.

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 that might be used to assess each outcome.

Program outcomes are discussed and were last revised about three years ago by the Urban and Regional Studies faculty prior to merger with the Public and Environmental Affairs budgetary unit.

- b. Please compare your Learning Outcomes to the University's main learning objectives. Which programmatic outcomes match university mission outcomes?

Learning outcomes for the Urban and Regional Studies major were specified in a manner believed to relate them to the university's learning objectives.

3. Which outcome will you assess this year (2016-2017)?

Learning Outcome #2: Students will develop an understanding of social science methodology, including the analysis and interpretation of both quantitative and qualitative data appropriate to the study of urban areas and regional places, and will have an understanding of and commitment to ethical standards for conducting research, for reporting findings and implementing the results of those findings, including ethics in decision making for urban and regional planning and public action.

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

Learning Outcome #2: Course CCQ scores over the year for questions 2, 4, 6, and 7, which pertain to skills development that enable one to be an engaged citizen and to understand the ethical implications of one's role in the determination of public actions. The questions used are:

#2) "Quite apart from specific course content, how much did the course content contribute to your general intellectual development, i.g., ability to reason, knowledge of other fields, thinking creatively, etc."

#4) "Was the course important and relevant for your own development in terms of appreciating new perspectives, broadening your outlook, understanding social issues, etc."

#6) "How well do you think you achieved the course objectives, i.e., learned the content and/or skills emphasized in the course"

#7) "Considering everything, how would you rate this course."

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

The following courses were judged to be most related to the specific learning outcome being evaluated this year for the Urban and Regional Studies degree program:

Learning Outcome #2

UR RE ST 100: Introduction to Urban and Regional Studies (required supporting course for majors and satisfies the university social science general education requirement, thus, taken by URS majors and nonmajors)

UR RE ST 305: Urban Politics and Policy (upper level elective for the URS major)

PU EN AF 430: Seminar in Ethics and Public Action (required capstone class for all majors in the EPP, PA, and URS)