



Environmental Science & Policy | 2015-2016 Assessment Plan

1. Please review last year's assessment results (2014-2015) with the faculty in your program. How does your program plan to take these results into consideration in future programmatic planning?

There are no results to discuss from 2014-2015. Here is an excerpt from the 2014 Self Study report prepared by the previous Chair (Matt Dornbush) for ES&P that discusses the current status of the ES&P assessment situation:

To date little has been done to evaluate data collected from assessment methods, and the ES&P faculty acknowledge significant room for improvement in its assessment of student outcomes. The program was scheduled for a consultation during the 2013-2014 academic year by then Special Assistant to the Provost for Institutional Assessment Dr. Angela Bauer. Unfortunately, Dr. Bauer left the university after spring 2013 and the program never pro-actively re-engaged the process, nor was it re-engaged by the Provost's office. These disruptions delayed action from the faculty in reviewing the program's assessment methods. We note that assessment has not been identified as a significant short-coming in either of the past reviews, and we will take action to rectify this situation.

2. Which outcome will you assess this year (2015-2016)?

General Learning Outcome #5: The ability to think creatively and to identify potential solutions to current and emerging problems, and to evaluate the technical and economic feasibility of such solutions.

Specific Learning Outcome #4 from ES/ETA and EPA emphases: Effectively communicate the results of environmental studies to other scientists, decision makers and the general public.

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

General Learning Outcome #5: This outcome will be assessed using a semester-long project where students need to identify an aspect of climate change, describe the problem, and evaluate solutions from a technical and economical perspective.

Specific Learning Outcome #4 from ES/ETA and EPA emphases: This outcome will be assessed through submission of a substantial report and a formal presentation to the class.

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

Both learning outcomes will be assessed in spring 2016 in Patricia Terry's ENV S&P 763 Global Environmental Change and Sustainability course. This is a required General Core capstone course for ES&P students.