

Program: Environmental Science & Policy

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?

Last year's assessment looked at learning outcome #1 which addresses a student's ability to "identify and analyze policy-relevant problems of major importance". This is an outcome specific to the Environmental Policy and Administration emphasis of the ES&P graduate program. For this assessment, three graduate students selected a contemporary natural resources topic to evaluate from a legal and policy perspective. The results from this assessment demonstrated the effectiveness of the assignment in guiding students toward achieving the learning outcome, and these methods will be encouraged during future programmatic planning.

2. Please review your program's Learning Outcomes. Do any of them need to be updated or clarified?

ES&P learning outcomes were reviewed and it was concluded that no updates or clarifications are due at this time. Learning outcomes were recently revised in 2015.

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

It was decided by the graduate faculty chair (in consultation with a number of graduate faculty) that a general learning outcome will be assessed this year and #6 specifically, or "the ability to design and implement research strategies, collect, organize, and evaluate data, and produce written reports of professional quality, including hands-on skills in using computers to achieve these objectives".

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

This outcome will be assessed through the production of 2-3 rigorous research papers that will be formatted for submission to various peer-reviewed journals.

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

The group of students that will be assessed for this outcome include those enrolled in Dr. Patrick Forsythe and Dr. Elizabeth Wheat's section of Global Environmental Change and Sustainability offered this Spring 2018 semester. It was believed that students enrolled in this class (N=9) represent a large enough sample of graduate students that are in co-enrolled in various aspects of the ES&P graduate program.