



Environmental Policy & Planning | 2017-2018 Assessment Report

EPP Learning Outcomes:

1. Exhibit an understanding and ability to implement sustainability as an engaged.
 2. Demonstrate basic knowledge of environmental science and selected other areas of natural science.
 3. Express knowledge of the concepts, principles, and theories of environmental policy, law, and planning.
 4. Engage in ethical decision making and critical thinking in environmental policy and planning.
 5. Communicate clearly and effectively about environmental policy and planning.
 6. Use technical skills in environmental policy and planning.
 7. Qualify for graduate work in schools of environmental studies, public policy, public affairs, planning, or related fields, or to qualify for entry level professional employment in environmental policy and planning.
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1. Please give a brief overview of the assessment data you collected this year.

The assessment plan called for measuring two outcomes in a core class, PUENAF 322, Environmental Policy & Planning, an upper level core course that all EPP majors must take in order to graduate with a degree in Environmental Policy and Planning. Fifteen students completed the course in Spring 2018. All students were junior or seniors. Fourteen completed the course.

The assessment covers the following essential areas of knowledge and skill:

Outcome 3. Express knowledge of the concepts, principles, and theories of environmental policy, law, and planning.

Outcome 6. Use technical skills in environmental policy and planning

Learning outcome 3 was assessed by observing student performance on the comprehensive final exam for the course. Learning outcome 6 was assessed on the final project which required students to demonstrate technical skills in environmental planning, such as: map reading, placement of key elements on map, redesign and rebuild to densify the residential units in a target area, and locating green building/conservation methods/food production methods on appropriate buildings or lots.

Learning Outcome	Learning outcome is exceeded*	Learning outcome is met	Learning outcome is not met
3. Express knowledge of the concepts, principles, and theories of environmental policy, law, and planning.	10	4	0
6. Use technical skills in environmental policy and planning.	12	1	2

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

All students were able to express knowledge of core concepts in Environmental Policy and planning, with 10 students exceeding competence.

For the second outcomes we assessed, findings showed that all but two students demonstrated technical skills based on project performance of a C or better. Ten of the 15 students scored a B on this assessment. Only two students demonstrated weak acquisition of these skills based on the grade D or F earned on the final project. One student hadn't followed the directions to submit the right array of elements in the project, and the other had been sick and missed so much class that she only handed in a poster map with no additional write up.

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

Based on these results, PEA faculty determined that most students are demonstrating achievement of the key learning outcomes for EPP major in this class. Student acquisition of technical skills in environmental planning was very strong as well. Only 3 of the 15 students did not exceed expectations, although two did not meet the outcome expectations at all. Further investigation into technical skills acquired may help us understand the reasons for falling short.

The PEA faculty is in the process of extensively revising the EPP curriculum, adding a third emphasis in Environmental Design and Regional planning while simplifying student curricular requirements and choices. We have completed a first revision to the major curriculum and are reviewing learning outcomes. As we revise the curriculum, we will develop an assessment plan to determine whether students are meeting learning goals.