

# Program: Urban and Regional Studies

## 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?

Data from CCQ assessments provided by students were used to assess learning outcome #2 for the academic program. The following courses were assessed: UR RE ST 100: Introduction to Urban and Regional Studies, UR RE ST 305: Urban Politics and Policy, and PU EN AF 430: Seminar in Ethics and Public Action. Results indicated generally positive student evaluations, especially in the two upper level courses, with some room for improvement in Intro to Urban and Regional Studies. These results were fed back to faculty. We concluded that no glaring problems existed in meeting learning outcome #2 for the Urban and Regional Studies degree program.

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 (e.g. course exams, term papers, course projects, senior seminar, senior interview, etc.) that might be used to assess each outcome. (The purpose here is to see that your program has considered ways it might measure each outcome.)

The Urban and Regional Studies program is currently conducting an in-depth examination of its learning outcomes and curriculum. In our recent discussions as a department, the general consensus was to move forward using course projects and primary course assignments to assess the majority of our learning outcomes. We plan to identify particular assignments in selected key courses for future assessment.

- b. Please compare your Learning Outcomes to the University's main learning objectives: interdisciplinary, problem-focused education; critical thinking; diversity; environmental sustainability; and engaged citizenship. (These objectives were identified in the MLLO Project, which may be found here: <http://www.uwgb.edu/MLLO/>.) Which programmatic outcomes match university mission outcomes?

Program outcomes were last revised four years ago by the Urban and Regional Studies faculty prior to merger with the Public and Environmental Affairs budgetary unit. At that time, learning outcomes for the Urban and Regional Studies major were specified in a manner believed to relate them to the university's learning objectives. As we develop new program outcomes this winter (2018), we will align them with the University's learning outcomes.

3. Which outcome will you assess this year (2017-2018)?

For this year, URS will continue to assess 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?

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).