



## **Program Assessment Report (PAR)**

**Applied Behavioral Science (ABS) Masters Degree**

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**ACADEMIC YEAR COVERED BY THIS REPORT: 2021-2022**

### **I. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will demonstrate the capacity to apply research methods and findings to the criminal justice system and/or social problems.

### **II. PROCEDURES USED FOR ASSESSMENT**

#### **A. Direct Assessment**

Proposals from ABS 7120 were evaluated. Outcome will be considered met if the average score on the rubric is at least 80%.

There were five ABS 7120 proposals generated in the Fall 2021 semester evaluated by the ABS Assessment committee using a rubric developed for that task.

#### **B. Scoring of Student Work**

Five ABS 7120 proposals were analyzed using Rubric to Evaluate ABS Research Proposals. This rubric evaluates the documents on six items (presence or absence) for content and format. These six items were Research involves analysis of acceptable data; Involves a clear and explicit research question or hypotheses; Documents contains (when appropriate) a title, abstract, literature review, theory, statement of methodology, and conclusion; Citations, notes and references in an acceptable style; Relatively error free in terms of grammar and punctuation; Draft of proposed survey or interview when appropriate.

Scoring of papers was done by members of the ABS Assessment committee. Members evaluated proposals for students they had not been involved with to maintain objectivity.

Of the five papers examined, the average score on the rubric was 5.6 points out of 6 points or 93.3%.

### **C. Indirect Assessment**

No indirect assessment was done this cycle.

## **III. ASSESSMENT RESULTS/INFORMATION:**

Five ABS 7120 proposals were analyzed using Rubric to Evaluate ABS Research Proposals. This rubric evaluates the documents on six items (presence or absence) for content and format. These six items were Research involves analysis of acceptable data; Involves a clear and explicit research question or hypotheses; Documents contains (when appropriate) a title, abstract, literature review, theory, statement of methodology, and conclusion; Citations, notes and references in an acceptable style; Relatively error free in terms of grammar and punctuation; Draft of proposed survey or interview when appropriate.

Of the five papers examined, the average score on the rubric was 5.6 points out of 6 points or 93.3%.

The evaluation of ABS 7120 research proposals exceeded the benchmark. The average score was 5.6 out of 6 points or 93.3%, the benchmark was set at 80%. Future assessment will include materials from courses in addition to projects and theses on a rotating basis. For the next assessment cycle, proposals from ABS 7100 will be requested and evaluated.

The outcome (Students will master the ability to create objective, critically engaged written communications appropriate to the target audience) was met.

## **IV. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING**

The assessment report will be shared with ABS faculty.

The ABS program is slated for deactivation as it is being converted to two tracks in the MPA program (Social problems/issues and criminal justice).

## **V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Additional documentation, when provided, is stored in the internal Academic Program Assessment of Student Learning SharePoint site.

