



Program Assessment Report (PAR)

Communities & Public Service Baccalaureate Degree

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ACADEMIC YEAR COVERED BY THIS REPORT: 2020-2021

I. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Graduates will be able to... communicate effectively in writing (LO for 2020-21). The following learning outcomes have been or will be assessed other years. Graduates will be able to... demonstrate an understanding of the value of diversity and multicultural competence in today's global environment. apply analytical tools to analyze problems relevant to politics, geography, the public sector, or the nonprofit sector. develop/enhance critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate local, national, or global political, legal, or social issues.

II. PROCEDURES USED FOR ASSESSMENT

A. Direct Assessment

Outcome Assessed for 2020-21 Graduates will be able to communicate effectively in writing. The SPIA Assessment Committee assessed research papers collected at the end of the Fall 2020 semester from all the URS majors (3) in URS 3450, an upper-level IW course that all URS majors take. The course instructor collected the papers and members of the SPIA Assessment Committee conducted the analysis.

B. Scoring of Student Work

We used a rubric which employed the following assessment strategies (drawn from the AAUC's rubric*) 1) "Uses appropriate and relevant content to develop and explore ideas" (AS#1). 2) "Uses language that conveys meaning to readers with clarity" (AS#2). Members of the SPIA Assessment Committee did the scoring. *Rhodes, Terrel. "Assessing Outcomes and Improving Achievement Tips and Tools for Using Rubrics." Washington, DC Association of American Colleges and

Universities, 2010.

C. Indirect Assessment

Outcome Assessed for 2020-21 Graduate will be able to communicate effectively in writing. Assessment Strategy #3. The instructor sent a Qualtrics survey to all students in URS 3450 at the end of the Fall 2020 semester on the following statement "This course helped me communicate effectively in writing (AS#3).

III. ASSESSMENT RESULTS/INFORMATION:

"Uses appropriate and relevant content to develop and explore ideas" (AS#1).
"Uses language that conveys meaning to readers with clarity"(AS#2). "This course helped me communicate effectively in writing (AS#3).

100% of students achieved AS #1 66% of students achieved AS #2 77% of students agreed or strongly agreed with AS#3. The students are adept at selecting and utilizing appropriate and relevant content. However, some of them help with conveying their meaning clearly.

The clear majority of URS majors are able to state an issue, utilize information, and describe it comprehensively. All the respondents felt confident that the course helped them think critically to analyze and evaluate issues. Most URS majors are graduating with developed critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate local, national, or global political, legal, or social issues.

IV. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING

The SPIA Assessment Committee will present the findings of the report to the URS faculty at our next department meeting. We will discuss ways we can help students communicate more effectively in writing, with an emphasis on writing with clarity. This was our first year assessing this LO, so it is impossible to compare to previous years.

V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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