



Program Assessment Report (PAR)

Communities & Public Service Baccalaureate Degree

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ACADEMIC YEAR COVERED BY THIS REPORT: 2021-2022

I. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Graduates will be able to "demonstrate understanding of the value of diversity and multicultural competence in today's global environment" (Learning Outcome identified by the assessment committee for 2021-2022).

II. PROCEDURES USED FOR ASSESSMENT

A. Direct Assessment

Outcome assessed for 2021-2022: Graduates will be able to demonstrate understanding of the value of diversity and multicultural competence in today's global environment. The SPIA assessed 10 of the 19 research papers collected at the end of the Fall 2021 semester from URS 3000, Cities and Communities, an upper-level integrated writing (IW) course. The course instructor collected the data and members of the SPIA Assessment Committee conducted the analysis. To score the students' level of performance of the outcome, we modified a rubric drawn from the AAUC's rubric* (*Rhodes, Terrel. "Assessing Outcomes and Improving Achievement: Tips and Tools for Using Rubrics." Washington, DC; Association of American Colleges and Universities, 2010).

B. Scoring of Student Work

Assessment strategy #1: 1) Student connects relevant experiences and academic knowledge, selecting examples drawn from a variety of contexts to illuminate topics and acknowledge perspectives other than own. (AS #1a) 2) Student sees (or makes) connections across multiple perspectives, connecting examples, facts or theories from multiple perspectives. (AS #1b) Members of the SPIA Assessment Committee did the scoring.

C. Indirect Assessment

Assessment strategy #2: The Department sent a Qualtrics survey to students graduating from Urban Studies at the end of Spring 2021 and Fall 2022 semesters, asking them how well they have mastered the learning outcomes associated with the program. With the small number of graduating students, and the pending suspension of the program, there were not enough responses to register with Qualtrics so we do not have any indirect measures to report.

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).

80% (8 out of 10) of students achieved AS #1a. 50% (5/10) of students achieved AS #1b.

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 faculty. Even though the Communities and Public Service Major (formerly Urban Affairs) has been suspended, we believe these findings may help inform other courses and programs focused on this learning objective, highlighting especially the need to encourage the utilization of multiple perspectives and connections, even in a factual research paper.

V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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