



Program Assessment Report (PAR)

Urban Affairs, BA (UAFF) Baccalaureate Degree

REPORT PREPARED by: Green, December

ACADEMIC YEAR COVERED BY THIS REPORT: [AcademicYear]

I. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Graduates will be able to... analyze and evaluate local, national, or global political, legal, or social issues (LO for 2019-20). The following learning outcomes have been or will be assessed other years. Graduates will be able to... communicate effectively in writing. 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.

II. PROCEDURES USED FOR ASSESSMENT

A. Direct Assessment

Outcome Assessed for 2019-20 Graduates will be able to analyze and evaluate local, national, or global political, legal, or social issues. The SPIA Assessment Committee assessed research papers collected at the end of the Fall 2019 semester from all the URS majors in URS 3000, 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. We used a rubric drawn from the AAUC's Critical Thinking rubric.* 1) "States an issue or problem clearly and describe it comprehensively, delivering relevant information necessary for understanding" (AS#1). 2) "Draws information from source(s) with enough interpretation/evaluation to develop a comprehensive analysis or synthesis" (AS#2). *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

Our rubric employed the following assessment strategies (drawn from the AAUC's Critical Thinking rubric*) 1) "State an issue or problem clearly and describe it comprehensively, delivering relevant information necessary for understanding" (AS#1). 2) "Draw information from source(s) with enough interpretation/evaluation to develop a comprehensive analysis or synthesis" (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 2019-20 Graduates will be able to analyze and evaluate local, national, or global political, legal, or social issues. Assessment Strategy #3. The instructor sent a Qualtrics survey to all students in URS 3000 at the end of the Fall 2019 semester on the following statement "This course helped me think critically to analyze and evaluate political, legal, or social issues at the local, national, or global level" (AS#3). Please note that there was a design error in the survey which resulted in a combined result between GEO, PLS, and URS majors. We are unable to sort by major. We won't make that mistake again. The SPIA Assessment Committee also sent out a general exit survey to all graduating seniors in AY 2019-20. It is attached to the last page of this report. Unfortunately, there were no responses.

III. ASSESSMENT RESULTS/INFORMATION:

"State an issue or problem clearly and describe it comprehensively, delivering relevant information necessary for understanding" (AS#1). "Draw information from source(s) with enough interpretation/evaluation to develop a comprehensive analysis or synthesis" (AS#2). "This course helped me think critically to analyze and evaluate political, legal, or social issues at the local, national, or global level" (AS#3).

83% of students achieved AS #1 83% of students achieved AS #2 100% of students agreed or strongly agreed with AS#3. Please note that only 8% of those surveyed responded.

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 analyze issues, interpret and evaluate data (i.e. invite research librarians to conduct workshops with our classes). 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.