

Assessment Procedure for Public Policy Ph.D. Program

Our Curriculum Will Enable Students to:

Understand the “scope and methods” involved in policy analysis including the ability to define a policy problem as well as a research question. (Policy Analysis, Evaluation, Economics, Qualitative Methods, Advanced Methods, Prerequisites in Quantitative Methods, Legal Research)

Be conversant in both quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches to research. (Policy Analysis, Qualitative Methods, Advanced Methods, Prerequisites in Quantitative Methods)

Be competent to conduct research in quantitative and/or qualitative methods. (Policy Analysis, Qualitative Methods, Advanced Methods, Prerequisites in Quantitative Methods)

Policy students should have expanded their specialization knowledge beyond their master’s degree so that they understand their specialization in the policy context. (Specialization requirements)

Understand public policy theory as well as their specialization theory (at an enhanced master’s level) in order to understand public policy in their area. (Specialization Requirements, Policy Analysis, Policy Leadership, Agenda Setting, Law and Policy)

Understand the ethical/normative aspects of public policy analysis. (Policy Analysis, Pro-Seminar in Public Policy)

Be able to apply their analytic, process and normative analysis skills in the development and implementation of realistic public policy options. (Policy Capstone, Policy Analysis, Evaluation)

Students should understand the policy process and the issues of utilization of research in order to make their research count. (Policy Capstone)

Contribute to the civic capital of policy stakeholders using the skills, knowledge and abilities noted above. (Policy Capstone, Policy Leadership, Agenda Setting, Evaluation, Community Development)

Note: These knowledge, skills and abilities are enhanced by participation in the academic life of the program and in the dissertation research process.

Assessment Strategy

Student will be assessed in the following ways:

- 1.) Capstone course – A capstone course is required of all students. One goal of this course is to provide the program with feedback on the ability of the students to use the skills noted above in addressing a community policy problem.
- 2.) Qualifying exam – All students must successfully complete a qualifying exam. This exam is primarily to diagnose competencies to do Ph.D. - level research. A student who does not successfully complete the exam will be required to take additional course work, work with a faculty advisor or in other ways address the deficiency.
- 3.) Graduates from our program will be asked to complete a survey within three to five years after their graduation. This survey will assess the student's perception of the program as well as their perception of the preparation they received for their career.

The core policy faculty will examine the results of the evaluation strategy and will determine changes in curriculum or academic processes.