Expected Outcomes: Professional Competence

Graduating students should be able to perform effectively as professional planners in public, private and non-profit sectors.

Assessment methods

Method: Professional certification/ comprehensive exam

Use the comprehensive exam to identify areas of disciplinary knowledge and learning outcomes that need to be strengthened. The Master of Community Planning curriculum reform of 2011 incorporated a mandatory comprehensive exam at the end of the students' second year of study, when the students have taken the majority of their required courses. Based on 2011 assessment goals, the format of that exam was modified in 2012 to reflect the professional AICP exam.

Findings:

Analysis of the results of the 2012 comprehensive exam showed the following results for % of questions answered correctly according to the corresponding disciplinary areas: planning law 98%, planning history and theory 95%, urban economics 78%, digital applications for planning 69%, history and theory of urban form 68%, elements of community planning 68%.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Based on these results, during the 2012-2013 academic year the program faculty will a) analyze strengths and weaknesses in the students' mastery of learning outcomes in these specific areas related to professional certification, b) evaluate the content and delivery of the courses in the areas that show less than 80% in the above results and redefine the desired learning outcomes if necessary, and c) re-address, evaluate and, if necessary, revise the exam format to achieve greater clarity and a stronger relation to the desired learning outcomes.

Additional comments:

The results of the comprehensive exam will be analyzed on a yearly basis. This analysis will be a continuous source of feedback concerning the students' expected professional competence-related program outcomes.