Expected Outcomes: Develop basic ENVD skill set

Students will develop skills necessary to communicate effectively in verbal, written, digital, and graphic/visual forms. The general technical skills include: 1. the ability to read plans, working drawings, specifications, and infrastructural systems; 2. the ability to use basic digital media related to design, construction, and planning disciplines; 3. the general ability to understand public policy, laws, and civic infrastructure related to design, construction and planning disciplines.

Related typical general education outcomes:

1. Information Literacy
2. Oral Communication
12. Aesthetic Appreciation and Engagement

Assessment methods

Method: Project reviews and individual portfolio reviews

Two design-skill building courses offered to ENVD students are ENVD 2100 (Environmental Design Workshop I) and ENVD 4100 (Environmental Design Workshop II - Capstone). ENVD 2100 was offered for the second time in the summer semester of 2012; it consisted of a series of projects (reviewed in pin-up class presentations) and a final digital portfolio. ENVD 4100 was offered for the first time in the summer semester of 2012; it included team projects with final review presentations, and individual digital portfolio components.

Findings:

ENVD 2100: The level of students' digital and design proficiency was adequate and relatively even, with expected variations between individual students. In addition to traditional analog techniques, students were taught three digital programs critical for design communication: SketchUp, InDesign and Photoshop. ENVD 4100: Students did a variety of projects that differ in scale and scope. Team projects were presented with a varying degree of quality, and individual components confirmed that more of design skills were needed for a successful capstone project.

How did you use findings for improvement?

ENVD 2100: In order to ensure more even outcome in terms of quality of students' design skills, students were taught in-depth three digital programs critical for design communication - rather than being exposed to a wide range of methods and programs. ENVD 4100: There will be two major changes that will elevate the quality of capstone workshop. The most important one is implementation of an additional skill building class (presently taught as a special topics course, but intended to become a permanent course for all ENVD students). This will allow future capstone students to have more sophisticated design skills needed to tackle a complex final project. Secondly, students will be asked to choose their project from a selection of community-based projects that are similar in scale. This will enable both students and instructor to become more engaged in the class as a whole, and hence further contribute to the enhanced quality of the course.
Additional comments:

None