Expected Outcomes: Effective Written Communications

When they complete this degree program, students will be able to write effectively about a public policy issue including describing a problem facing a public or non-profit decision-maker and proposing a policy to treat the problem.

Related typical general education outcomes:

7 Written Communication

Assessment methods

Method: Written paper

A group project in POLI-5370 NonProfit Management in Spring 2012 was used to assess this outcome. The class was divided into five groups; and each group had to compose a 20-page paper that described an actual non-profit and the successes and challenges that it has had. These papers and the multi-media presentations of them were assessed by two MPA Core faculty members (Hale, the instructor for the course, and Clark).

Findings:

One of the five papers was adequate in terms of the effectiveness of the writing that was being assessed; and the other four exceeded the normal expectations for the quality of such work.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Our students seem to perform fairly well in this area. Our faculty is putting more stress on policy analysis in several of their classes.

Additional comments:

None

Expected Outcomes: Critique arguments

When they complete this degree program, students will be able to critique arguments in public administration and political science.

Related typical general education outcomes:

3 Ability to Critique Arguments

Assessment methods

Method: Senior Survey

A survey of Political Science and Public Administration seniors was conducted in the Spring of 2012. This survey contained the question: “My major courses helped me develop skills for analyzing arguments and evidence about politics.”

Findings:
Of the 42 seniors who answered this question, 33 or 79% said that they had developed such skills.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Our students seem fairly confident about their educational development in this area. Our faculty is putting more stress on policy analysis in several of their classes.

Additional comments:

None