2013-2014 Assessment Report

College of Liberal Arts

Political Science

Election Administration, Graduate Certificate

Expected Outcome 1: Informed and Engaged Citizenship

In the 2012-2013 assessment, informed and engaged citizenship was listed as one of the expected outcomes. Specifically, the outcome was articulated to mean that students will be able to act as informed and engaged citizens and administrators when they complete this degree program.

Assessment Method 1: Student Survey

Assessment Method Description

For the 2012-2013 assessment, students graduating with the Graduate Certificate in Election Administration were asked to indicate, in response to a survey, the degree to which being an Election Administration student increased their interest in, and capabilities for, acting as a responsible citizen and responsible administrator. Possible survey responses on a five-point scale included: strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree. No students graduated in this program in 2013-2014.

Findings

In 2013-2014 the survey was not administered as no students graduated with the Election Administration Graduate Certificate and none had expressed a formal interest in pursuing this specialized degree.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Auburn MPA is a national leader in professional certification of election administrators around the country and is unique in its offering of graduate education in this field. The relevant curricular faculty discussed student interest in the graduate certificate and the growing interest in the practitioner community for this specialized program. The relevant curricular faculty also reviewed this learning outcome and determined that new learning outcome(s) should be developed. As the impetus grows for formal study of this subfield of public administration, so does the attention
to norms and expectations of practitioners in the field. The synthesis faculty assessment is that the program will be marketed to the broader community of practicing election administrators, and that a set of more specific learning outcomes will be developed in line with the recent Presidential Commission Report on Election Administration. This inaugural study of the administrative aspects of the field will be a valuable source of information about program outcomes. Upon consideration of this information, faculty will design and implement additional methods of direct/indirect assessment as needed.

Additional Comments
The outcomes for this graduate certificate will be integrated into the overall review of knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) underway in the MPA Program; see the MPA Program assessment report for further detail.

Assessment Method 2: Evaluation by Faculty Committee

Assessment Method Description
In 2012-2013, three faculty teaching core courses in the graduate certificate discussed the work of the students enrolled in the program and their ability to understand the major issues in the field. No students graduated in this program in 2013-2014.

Findings
In 2013-2014 the faculty evaluation committee did not convene to discuss graduating students or enrolled students as no students graduated with the Election Administration Graduate Certificate and none had expressed a formal interest in pursuing this specialized degree.

How did you use findings for improvement?
Auburn MPA is a national leader in professional certification of election administrators around the country and is unique in its offering of graduate education in this field. The relevant curricular faculty discussed student interest in the graduate certificate and the growing interest in the practitioner community for this specialized program. The relevant curricular faculty also reviewed this learning outcome and determined that new learning outcome(s) should be developed. As the impetus grows for formal study of this subfield of public administration, so does the attention to norms and expectations of practitioners in the field. The synthesis of faculty assessment efforts is that the program will be marketed to the broader community of practicing election administrators, and that a set of
more specific learning outcomes will be developed in line with the recent Presidential Commission Report on Election Administration. This inaugural study of the administrative aspects of the field will be a valuable source of information about program outcomes. Upon review of this information, program faculty will design and implement additional methods of direct/indirect assessment as needed.

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**Expected Outcome 2: Read Analytically**

In the 2012-2013 assessment, one expected outcome was the ability to read analytically materials germane to the subfield of election administration.

**Assessment Method 1: Evaluation by Faculty Committee**

**Assessment Method Description**

In 2012-2013, three faculty teaching core courses in the graduate certificate discussed the work of the students enrolled in the program and their ability to understand the major issues in the field. No students graduated in this program in 2013-2014.

**Findings**

In 2013-2014 the faculty evaluation committee did not convene to discuss graduating students or enrolled students as no students graduated with the Election Administration Graduate Certificate and none had expressed a formal interest in pursuing this specialized degree during this assessment period, although students were enrolled in courses in the certificate curriculum.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**

Auburn MPA is a national leader in professional certification of election administrators around the country and is unique in its offering of graduate education in this field. The relevant curricular faculty discussed student interest in the graduate certificate and the growing interest in the practitioner community for this type of specialized program. The relevant curricular faculty also reviewed this learning outcome and determined
that new learning outcome(s) should be developed. As the impetus grows for formal study of this subfield of public administration, so does the attention to norms and expectations of practitioners in the field. The synthesis is that the program will be marketed to the broader community of practicing election administrators, and that a set of more specific learning outcomes will be developed in line with the recent Presidential Commission Report on Election Administration. This inaugural study of the administrative aspects of the field will be a valuable source of information about program outcomes. Upon review of this information, program faculty will design and implement additional methods of direct/indirect assessment as needed

Additional Comments