2013-2014 Assessment Report

College of Liberal Arts

Political Science

Nonprofit Organizations and Community Governance, Graduate Certificate

Expected Outcome 1: Informed and Engaged Citizenship

In the 2012-2013 assessment, informed and engaged citizenship was identified as one expected outcome. Specifically, this 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 Nonprofit Organizations and Community Governance were asked to indicate, in response to a survey, the degree to which being a graduate student in this program 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. This assessment was not administered in 2013-2014 as there were no students graduating from the program.

Findings
In 2013-2014 the survey was not administered as no students graduated with the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Organizations and Community Governance; although quite a few students expressed interest and enrolled in one or more courses in the certificate curriculum, none had formally declared.

How did you use findings for improvement?
The relevant curricular faculty reviewed the current MPA Exit Survey to determine whether any of the questions in that survey would be appropriate for assessing the students who were expected, in Fall 2014, to
declare interest in the graduate certificate. Faculty determined that the Exit Survey does not contain any questions that are specific to this subfield. 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, as well as the general integration of the study of nonprofit organizations as part of the core MPA curriculum across the discipline. The relevant curricular faculty also reviewed this learning outcome and determined more specific learning outcomes should be developed. The synthesis of faculty review of this assessment is that, for 2014-2015, the relevant curricular faculty will 1) develop a set of new and specific learning outcomes; 2) add questions to the MPA Exit Survey that reflect some (or all) of these learning outcomes; and 3) 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.

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**Expected Outcome 2: Read Analytically**
In the 2012-2013 assessment, one expected outcome was the ability to read analytically.

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

**Assessment Method Description**
In 2012-2013, 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.

**Findings**
In 2013-2014 the faculty committee did not convene as no students graduated with the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Organizations and Community Governance; in addition, although quite a few students expressed interest and were enrolled in one or more of the courses in the certificate curriculum, none had formally declared during the
How did you use findings for improvement?
The relevant curricular faculty discussed the students who were expected, in Fall 2014, to declare interest in the graduate certificate, and the growing interest in the practitioner community for this type of specialized program, as well as the general integration of the study of nonprofit organizations as part of the core MPA curriculum across the discipline. The relevant curricular faculty also reviewed this learning outcome and determined more specific learning outcomes should be developed. The synthesis of faculty review of this assessment is that, for 2014-2015, the relevant curricular faculty will 1) develop a set of new and specific learning outcomes; 2) add questions to the MPA Exit Survey that reflect some (or all) of these learning outcomes; and 3) design and implement additional methods of direct/indirect assessment as needed.

Additional Comments