

## Undergraduate Assessment Narrative Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs

The scope of this undergraduate assessment narrative is the four degree programs in the MGLCUA: Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Urban Services Administration, and Bachelor of Arts in Public Safety Management. Since the four degree programs share the same goals and many common course requirements, including the capstone senior seminar, this narrative discusses the four degrees as one unit.

### **Goals**

The goals of the MGLCUA undergraduate degree programs are as follows:

#### Goal 1

- \*Search relevant literature
- \*Ask strategic questions
- \*Formulate working hypothesis
- \*Develop methodologies
- \*Record data
- \*Critically interpret data
- \*Present research results;

#### Goal 2

- \*Utilize software packages in functional areas such as word processing, spreadsheets, database management, elementary statistics, and graphics;

#### Goal 3

- \*Internship in an urban agency with a specified supervisor and faculty advisor.

The undergraduate faculty of the College as part of the University's assessment efforts in the 1980s and 90s developed these student-learning goals. They were revisited at the time of this present assessment effort. Faculty discussion of the goals will lead to changing the "Develop methodologies" goal to "Use appropriate methodologies."

### **Outcomes**

The outcomes for the goals 1 and 2 relate to the students' achievement of progressive levels of sophistication in those goal areas. The outcome for goal 3 is the successful completion of an internship. The undergraduate faculty is working insure that the major core lower-division course (UST 200) is designed to start the students on the road to achieving goals 1 and 2. The undergraduate faculty is also working to insure that the core major field requirements courses (UST 300, UST 301, UST 302) are designed to insure a continuation of the achievement of goals 1 and 2. The capstone advanced senior seminar (UST 489) is also designed to continue the students' achievement of goals 1 and 2. The College upper-division requirements in computer applications (UST 404) and

urban data analysis (UST 401) are also designed to meet the achievement of goal 2.

We recognize a possible confusion as to goals and outcomes in terms of assessment definitions. The MGLCUA goals are specific enough that achievement can be measured without separate outcomes definitions.

### **Research**

The capstone advanced senior seminar (UST 489) now requires the students to put together posters and participate in a poster session. We have had 3 such poster sessions. The computer application requirement (UST 404) also utilizes individual projects publicly presented to help ascertain the achievement of goal 2.

### **Findings**

None to date.

### **Review**

Faculty, staff, students, and community members are invited to the poster sessions.

### **Actions**

We have initial faculty discussion of common language for all syllabi for UST 200, 300, 302, 401, 404, and 489 to insure consistency in goal articulation and achievement. This will continue.