

**Academic Program Assessment Data Report (2023)**  
**Ph.D. degree program in Public Policy (PUBPPH)**  
Submitted by Brinck Kerr, Director

**Results of analysis of assessment of student learning outcomes**

Students near the end of their coursework should be able to:

- (1) conduct research in a collaborative (or team) setting that will inform some aspect of policy making on a community issue;
- (2) apply policy recommendations to a real world problem or issue;
- (3) demonstrate that they have the requisite policy core, specialization, and methods skills necessary to progress to the dissertation stage;
- (4) demonstrate the ability to do independent research;
- (5) expand upon or “test” public policy and/or specialization area theories;
- (6) contribute to new scholarly/academic knowledge; and
- (7) contribute to policy relevant knowledge.

Outcomes 1 and 2 are primarily evaluated in PUBP 6134, the Capstone Seminar.

In spring 2023 capstone students Becky Purcell, Leah English, Sarah Campau, Erin Scott, and Rachel Piontak presented the City of Fayetteville with recommendations for the development of an e-bike incentive program. In fall 2023 capstone students Kadesha Treco, Kolade Olatunde, Christopher Giller, and Anthony Holdier partnered with Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) to (1) measure the attitudes of NWA residents towards the regional transit authority and (2) provide ORT with recommendations on how to increase ridership.

Outcome 3 is primarily evaluated during the qualifying exam process.

The following PUBP students were admitted to candidacy during 2023:

Leah English  
Kolade Olatunde  
Becky Purcell  
Erin Scott  
Connie Thomas

Outcomes 4 through 7 are evaluated during dissertation process. These outcomes are also pursued by students through the writing and submission of manuscripts for conference presentations and publication.

The following PUBP students defended their dissertations during 2023:

Eric Button  
Frederick Clerson  
Toby Klein  
Renee Merrill  
Misty Newcombe  
Jason Ramage

During 2023, PUBP students presented 36 papers at professional conferences. By comparison, PUBP students presented 24 papers at professional conferences in 2022. During 2023, PUBP students published or had accepted for publication 11 peer-reviewed journal articles. By comparison, PUBP students published or had accepted for publication 10 peer-reviewed journal articles in 2022.

During the last two years, PUBP alumni and Ph.D. candidates were placed in the following positions:

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, California State University, Bakersfield

President, National Park College, Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas

Assistant Professor, Higher Education, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Commerce, TX

Superintendent, Prism North America

Managing Director, Research Integrity & Compliance, University of South Florida

Research Assistant Professor, Institute for Integrative & Innovative Research, University of Arkansas

Analyst, Centre d'études sur les Coûts de Production en Agriculture, Quebec, Canada

**Any changes to the degree planned or made on the basis of the assessment and analysis**

No changes are planned or have been made.

**Any changes to the assessment process made or planned**

No changes are planned or have been made.