

Academic Program Assessment Data Report (2024)
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 fall 2024, capstone students Candis Angoe, Jordan Frederking, Jason Nichols, and Izehi Oriaghan provided an evaluation of U of A’s Veteran & Military Affiliated Student Center. The goal was to evaluate services the center provides to students to determine if the center is meeting the needs of the veteran and military student population. The report recommends the following: enhance student resources; increase staff; decrease financial barriers, facilitate cross-department training; increase student engagement; and provide a more centralized location (e.g. Student Union).

Outcome 3 is primarily evaluated during the qualifying exam process.

The following PUBP students were admitted to candidacy during 2024:

Natasha Borozdina
Sarah Campau
Callie Embry
Trish Lopez
Rachel Piontak
Kadesha Treco

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 2024:

Dennia Felton
Ben Galloway
Melanie Hoskins
Miran Kang

During 2024, PUBP students presented 13 papers at professional conferences—and published or had accepted for publication 10 peer-reviewed journal articles.

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

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

Assistant Professor (Clinical, Teaching), Department of Political Science, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Assistant Professor of Professional Practice, School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University-Newark.

Director, Global Public Policy, Walmart Corporation.

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

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

Vice-President of School Operations, Responsive Ed, Arkansas

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.