

Urban Studies -- Urban Management Ph.D.

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose

Institutional Mission Reference

The Urban Services - Management Ph.D. Program offers graduate students a high quality degree program in Urban Studies that meets national standards of excellence. Program faculty are committed to quality teaching and discovery of new knowledge. The Urban Studies - Management Ph.D. Program supports the University's mission of providing advanced professional education for the Hampton Roads area and the Commonwealth.

Institutional Goal(s) Supported

The Urban Studies - Management Ph.D. Program supports the University goals of (a) quality graduate academic programs, (b) quality teaching, (c) discovery of new knowledge, and (d) community service. (See pages 3-4 of the Old Dominion University Catalog or pages 8-9 of the Strategic Plan.) The Master of Urban Services Program also supports Strategic Initiative 2 (Excellent Graduate Programs). (See the Old Dominion University Strategic Plan.)

Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes, Methods for Assessment, Criteria for Success, Assessment Results, and Use of Results

Intended Outcome 1

Students will demonstrate competency in the field of Urban Studies coursework.

Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: 95% of Students will pass the Written and Oral Comprehensive Examinations, 90% on the first attempt.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1: Assessment data indicates that this objective is being met.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 1 to Improve Academic Program: No changes are contemplated at this time as a result of assessment data for outcome number two.

Intended Outcome 2

Students will demonstrate expertise in research and communication regarding Urban Studies.

Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: All students will successfully complete at least one research project and related manuscript suitable for publication prior to embarking on their dissertation work.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 2: A majority of the doctoral students have completed one or more research projects worthy of publication in scholarly journals. A few students have not yet produced manuscripts suitable for publication.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 2 to Improve Academic Program: Plans are to encourage working relationships between faculty and doctoral students especially in the area of independent research projects.

Intended Outcome 3

All students will demonstrate expertise in researching and developing a specific area of interest in the field of Urban Studies. Students will successfully prepare, present and defend their Dissertation Proposal.

Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: The Dissertation Proposal will be presented and defended to a committee of at least three faculty members.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 3: 100% of all doctoral are now required to defend their dissertation proposal.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 3 to Improve Academic Program: The dissertation proposal defenses have resulted significant revisions and improvements to dissertation research questions and topics. Also students now focus on potential research agendas much earlier in their program of study.

Intended Outcome 4

The student will demonstrate expertise in their chosen field in Urban Studies.

Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success: The student will successfully research, prepare, present and defend their Dissertation to a faculty committee and public audience.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 4: The very large majority of dissertations have been successfully and well defended.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 4 to Improve Academic Program: No changes are contemplated at this time as a result of assessment data for outcome number four.