

Urban Services - Urban Management Doctoral (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 Services that meets national standards of excellence. Program faculty are committed to quality teaching and discovery of new knowledge. The Urban Services - 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 Services - 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 Studies 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 Services 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 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 Services.

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 Services. Students will successfully prepare, present, and defend their Dissertation Proposals.

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 students are now required to defend their Dissertation Proposals.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 3 to Improve Academic Program: The Dissertation Proposal defenses continue to produce 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

Students will demonstrate expertise in their chosen field in Urban Services.

Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success: Students will successfully research, prepare, present and defend their dissertations 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: As a result of assessment data for outcome number four, no changes are contemplated at this time.