Introduction

The College of Humanities and Public Affairs (CHPA) at Missouri State University (MSU) has adopted a common set of Learning Outcomes as well as more specific disciplinary Learning Outcomes that will be assessed by each program in the College. The purpose of these assessment plans is based on: 1.) determining if CHPA programs are accomplishing their program missions; 2.) determining if CHPA students are achieving stated learning outcomes; and 3.) developing a systematic plan throughout the college for data analysis and continuous improvement.

The following programs are assessed in CPHA:

Bachelor of Science: Anthropology, Criminology & Criminal Justice, Economics, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, Sociology

Bachelor of Arts: Anthropology, Criminology & Criminal Justice, Economics, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, Sociology

Bachelor of Science in Education: History

Masters of Science: Applied Anthropology, Criminology & Criminal Justice, Defense & Strategic Studies, Global Studies, Public Administration

Masters of Arts: History, Religious Studies

Masters of Science in Education: History

Mission

The College of Humanities and Public Affairs helps students to understand social, political and legal structures, ethical principles, religious systems, and economic institutions and practices within a global, historical, and contemporary context. CHPA presents the concepts contained in the university’s Public Affairs mission and applies them to real-world problems and situations so that our students will be better prepared to become citizens and leaders.

Program Goals and Objectives

Anthropology Learning Outcomes (BA, BS, MS)

- A solid foundation in the main subjects, concepts, issues, and methods of archeological, biological, cultural and linguistic anthropology.
- An understanding of different theoretical approaches to anthropology.
- The ability to write a coherent essay on a topic in anthropology.
- The ability to give an effective oral presentation on a topic in anthropology.
Criminology & Criminal Justice Learning Outcomes (BA, BS, MS)

- Students will demonstrate academic proficiency in the core criminal justice areas (law enforcement, law and corrections).
- Students will be able to communicate effectively, orally and in writing, using appropriate references and technologies.
- Students will be able to assess the basic quality of research in criminology and criminal justice publications and other media.
- Students will be able to evaluate ethical issues related to the criminal justice system and criminology.
- Students will identify issues of diversity and human rights in relation to the workings of the criminal justice system and criminology.
- Students will employ critical thinking skills when evaluating issues in criminology and criminal justice.

Defense & Strategic Studies Learning Outcomes (MS)

- Ability to analyze timely and critical issues in international and national security affairs
- Ability to engage effectively with public affairs issues and policies related to international and national security
- Ability to contribute to informed public debate
- Ability to present academic and intellectual resources to concerned civic groups and organizations

Economics Learning Outcomes (BA, BS)

- Know how to make a rational choice using economic principles.
- Be able to perform basic quantitative analysis using tools appropriate for the discipline.
- Be able to conduct a literature review appropriate for the discipline of economics.
- Analyze articles on economic issues in the popular press using standard economic tools.
- Understand the basic functioning of the national and global economy.

History Learning Outcomes (BA, BSED, MA, MSED)

- Demonstrate a breadth of training across historical time and space (Praxis)
- Develop an in-depth understanding of a field, theme or region (Praxis)
- Demonstrate an historical awareness of the diversity of the human experience across time and space (research papers)
- Apply, assess and debate the major historical schools of thought, methodology and types of sources that historians use to make original arguments (research papers)
- Formulate historical arguments and communicate those arguments in clear and persuasive prose

Philosophy Learning Outcomes (BA, BS)

- Identify significant philosophical issues that arise within a variety of human activities.
- Analyze philosophical issues, uncovering the major implications of the problems involved.
- Critically assess and resolve the issues.
Political Science Learning Outcomes (BA, BS, MSGBL, MPA)

• Develop and demonstrate academic proficiency in the subfields of American Government and Politics, Comparative Government, International Relations, Public Administration, Political Theory, and Public Law.
• Develop and demonstrate skills in conducting as well as presenting research in political science
• Develop and demonstrate skills in analytical and critical thinking.

Religious Studies Learning Outcomes (BA, BA, MA)

• Students will recognize and understand diverse manifestations of religion(s).
• Students will demonstrate critical and creative cognitive skills while studying religion(s).
• Students will demonstrate in both oral and written form their critical analyses and interpretations of religious phenomena

Sociology Learning Outcomes (BA, BS)

• Demonstrate knowledge of core sociological concepts
• Demonstrate knowledge of how to use theory to conceptualize a sociological problem
• Develop an ability to use social scientific research methods to address sociological questions
• Demonstrate the ability to communicate sociological knowledge to others
• Develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to be engaged members of the community

All courses in each program include applicable program and/or PA goals in their course syllabi.

Assessment Process

There is some variation in the assessment process between programs in CHPA. Some are able to use standardized tests (MFAT, Praxis, TUCE) while others rely on internal tracking systems, development of a portfolio, and exit interviews.

For those departments using the MFAT Exam, a determination is made of what percentage of students is at or above the 50th percentile and what percentage of students is above the 80th percentile. The MFAT scores then function as one measure of student success and as one factor in on-going departmental discussions on periodic curricular and program reviews

For those departments using a portfolio and an exit interview with graduating majors, an attempt will be made to quantify the accumulated data by academic year to determine whether:

a. A significant number of students make similar suggestions or express similar concerns
b. A percentage of students expressing satisfaction with:
   1. Level of Academic Challenge within the major
   2. The degree of active and collaborative learning in course work
   3. The level of student-faculty interaction
   4. Preparation for the job market or graduate studies

College Assessment Summary Report Template, created 3-28-12.
c. Whether the department needs to meet to discuss the findings and/or take curricular or other actions to address student needs or concern

**Timeline**

Assessment data is collected every semester. The goal is gathering and analyzing assessment data is continuous improvement for programs and as a factor in determining the effectiveness of existing plans. The assumption is that based on data collected and analyzed select changes and enhancements will be discussed and where deemed necessary implemented.

Those assessment goals deemed critical to program mission will be reviewed each academic year. This will especially be the case for programs that have just undertaken major curricular changes. Other goals will be addressed on a bi-annual basis, but in every case it will be the responsibility of the program to effectively make use of the data collected in order to insure that the assessment loop is completed.