

2007 Assessment Report Undergraduate Narrative Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs

The scope of the undergraduate assessment report is the four degree programs in the MGLCUA: Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Urban Services Administration, and Bachelor of Arts in Public Safety Management. Since the four degree programs share the same goals and many common course requirements, including the capstone senior seminar, this narrative discusses the four degrees as one unit. The goals and report style have the approval of the faculty undergraduate curriculum of the MGLCUA.

Goals

The goals of the MGLCUA undergraduate degree programs are as follows:

Goal 1

Learn empirical research skills:

- *Search relevant literature
- *Ask strategic questions
- *Formulate working hypotheses
- *Use appropriate methodologies
- *Record data
- *Critically interpret data
- *Present research results;

Goal 2

- *Utilize software packages in functional areas such as word processing, spreadsheets, data base management, elementary statistics, and graphics;

Goal 3

- *Successful completion of an internship with a specified supervisor and faculty advisor.

Faculty Discussion

The undergraduate faculty of MGLCUA, as part of CSU's assessment efforts in the 1980s and 90s, developed these students learning goals. They were revisited for the last two year's assessment reports. The 2005 change was turning "Develop methodologies" into "Use appropriate methodologies."

Outcomes

The outcomes for goals 1 and 2 relate to the students' achievement of progressive levels of course sophistication. The college's undergraduate curriculum committee reaffirmed these in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006.

The outcome for goal 3 is the successful completion of an internship.

Research

As stated as planned in the 2005 report, the courses UST 102, 200, and 302 (Professional Writing, Introduction to Urban Studies, and Contemporary Urban Issues) have been modified to introduce the students to the outcomes specified for goal 1.

As stated as planned in the 2005 report, the college reduced the number of sections of UST 200 from 6 sections per term to 3. Two of the sections are taught online. All sections now have a common syllabus (as planned in last year's report). Fulltime faculty serve as rotating online discussants in the course. This is a change from the 2005 plans, because the use of streaming video proved problematic.

For the internship (now called cooperative education), both the employer and the student complete assessments of the experience.