

**PhD in Urban Studies and Public Affairs  
2006-2007 Assessment Report**

Submitted by Bill Bowen, PhD Program Director  
June 8, 2007



The Ph.D. Program in Urban Studies and Public Affairs integrates urban related knowledge from a number of academic disciplines. Through disciplinary integration, doctoral students analyze, design, test and evaluate strategies for urban policy-making and management within the public and private sectors.

**Mission**

To prepare scholars for research, teaching, and reflective practice in positions related to urban studies and public affairs, in universities or public-policy organizations.

**Program Goals**

- To graduate scholars who possess a strong methodological foundation within the field of urban studies and public affairs together with an in-depth knowledge that enables them to recognize, identify, and articulate the frontiers of scholarship in a specialization.
- To graduate scholars able to construct, execute, and present scholastically sound, independent research of either a theoretical or applied nature that expands the frontiers of knowledge within the field of urban studies and public affairs.

The program places heavy emphasis upon theory, research methods and literature, effective professional communications to both expert and lay audiences, and an interdisciplinary approach that accounts for all of the significant dimensions of the issues and problems in the field of urban studies and public affairs.

The student's understanding is informed by political theory and philosophy, economics, statistical and mathematical model building, research methods, concentration in an important substantive domain of public concern, as well as real-world knowledge of specific circumstances, cases, and issues. The areas of specialization in the doctoral program include public administration, economic development, housing and neighborhood development, and environmental policy and administration.



<b>Program:</b> PhD in Urban Studies and Public Affairs	<b>Completed By:</b> Bill Bowen and Rachel Singer
<b>Department:</b> Urban Studies	<b>Date:</b> June 8, 2007

**Goal 1: Knowledge of the Field**

Outcomes	Research Methods	Findings	Review	Actions
Students will develop fundamental knowledge and critical perspectives pertaining to urban studies and public affairs. Students will develop advanced level of expertise within the area of their chosen specialization.	<p>Comprehensive examinations are evaluated by faculty graders within the specialization using a rubric.</p> <p>Student performance is scored as exemplary, satisfactory, or unsatisfactory based on the knowledge content of student answers to comprehensive exam questions.</p>	<p>9 students completed the comprehensive exam in AY 2006-2007.</p> <p>Student 1: 67% exemplary/ 33% satisfactory            Student 2: 100% exemplary            Student 3: 100% satisfactory            Student 4: 67% exemplary/ 33% satisfactory            Student 5: 100% unsatisfactory            Student 6: 50% satisfactory/ 50% unsatisfactory            Student 7: 33% satisfactory/ 67% unsatisfactory            Student 8: 100% satisfactory            Student 9: 33% exemplary/ 67% satisfactory</p> <p><u>Overall Student Performance</u>            30% exemplary            44% satisfactory            26% unsatisfactory</p> <p>There were 3 students were in each specialization: Public Administration, Environmental Policy and Administration, and Economic Development.</p>	Data were reviewed by the PhD Program Director and Department Chair. Results were reported to the PhD program faculty and significant findings were discussed at the Spring faculty meeting.	<p>Two students did not pass the comprehensive exam in the 2006-2007 year.</p> <p>The PhD core curriculum underwent a revision process, resulting in greater attention to writing in UST 802. This course is now being used in the evaluation of conditionally admitted students.</p> <p>Specialization coordinators are working to create and/or update reading lists to help ensure students have a solid foundation in specialization area literature and to assist in comprehensive exam preparation.</p>
Students will develop fundamental knowledge and critical perspectives pertaining to urban studies and public affairs. Students will develop advanced level of expertise within the area of their chosen specialization.	<p>Dissertation prospectuses are evaluated by faculty members on their committees using a rubric.</p> <p>Student performance is scored as exemplary, satisfactory, or unsatisfactory based on the knowledge content of each prospectus presented.</p>	<p>4 students successfully defended prospectuses AY 2006-2007.</p> <p>Student 1: 100% exemplary            Student 2: 100% satisfactory            Student 3: 100% satisfactory            Student 4: 80% satisfactory, 20% unsatisfactory</p> <p><u>Overall Student Performance</u>            25% exemplary            70% satisfactory            5% unsatisfactory</p>	Data were reviewed by the PhD Program Director and Department Chair. Results were reported to the PhD program faculty and significant findings were discussed at the Spring faculty meeting.	<p>No action at this time.</p> <p>2006-2007 data will be reviewed by program faculty in Fall 2007.</p>



Goal 1: continued				
Outcomes	Research Methods	Findings	Review	Actions
<p>Students will develop fundamental knowledge and critical perspectives pertaining to urban studies and public affairs.</p> <p>Students will develop advanced level of expertise within the area of their chosen specialization.</p>	<p>Student dissertations are evaluated by faculty members on their committees using a rubric.</p> <p>Student performance is scored as exemplary, satisfactory, or unsatisfactory based on the knowledge content of each dissertation presented.</p>	<p>4 Students successfully defended dissertations in AY 2006-2007.</p> <p>Student 1: 100% satisfactory            Student 2: 33% exemplary/ 67% satisfactory            Student 3: 34% exemplary/ 66% satisfactory            Student 4: 50% exemplary/ 50% satisfactory</p> <p><u>Overall Student Performance</u>            29% exemplary            71% satisfactory</p>	<p>Data were reviewed by the PhD Program Director and Department Chair. Results were reported to the PhD program faculty and significant findings were discussed at the Spring faculty meeting.</p>	<p>No action at this time.</p> <p>2006-2007 data will be reviewed by program faculty in Fall 2007.</p>

Goal 2: Research				
Outcomes	Research Methods	Findings	Review	Actions
<p>Students will develop the ability to initiate, plan, and execute original research and/or theoretical inquiry in their area of specialization.</p>	<p>Dissertation prospectuses are evaluated by faculty members on their committees using a rubric.</p> <p>Student performance is scored as exemplary, satisfactory, or unsatisfactory based on the research methodology of each prospectus presented.</p>	<p>Student 1: 50% exemplary/ 50% satisfactory            Student 2: 33% exemplary/ 67% satisfactory            Student 3: 25% exemplary/ 75% satisfactory            Student 4: 10% exemplary/ 85% satisfactory/ 5% unsatisfactory</p> <p><u>Overall Student Performance</u>            30% exemplary            69% satisfactory            1% unsatisfactory</p>	<p>Data were reviewed by the PhD Program Director and Department Chair. Results were reported to the PhD program faculty and significant findings were discussed at the Spring faculty meeting.</p>	<p>No action at this time.</p> <p>2006-2007 data will be reviewed by program faculty in Fall 2007.</p>
<p>Students will develop the ability to initiate, plan, and execute original research and/or theoretical inquiry in their area of specialization.</p>	<p>Student dissertations are evaluated by faculty members on their committees using a rubric.</p> <p>Student performance is scored as exemplary, satisfactory, or unsatisfactory based on the research methodology of each dissertation presented.</p>	<p>Student 1: 100% satisfactory            Student 2: 33% exemplary/ 67% satisfactory            Student 3: 38% exemplary/ 62% satisfactory            Student 4: 50% exemplary/ 50% satisfactory</p> <p><u>Overall Student Performance</u>            30% exemplary            70% satisfactory</p>	<p>Data were reviewed by the PhD Program Director and Department Chair. Results were reported to the PhD program faculty and significant findings were discussed at the Spring faculty meeting.</p>	<p>No action at this time.</p> <p>2006-2007 data will be reviewed by program faculty in Fall 2007.</p>



Goal 3: Communication				
Outcomes	Research Methods	Findings	Review	Actions
Students will acquire the skills to communicate at a professional level within the areas of scholarship and professional practice of their area of expertise.	<p>Comprehensive examinations are evaluated by faculty graders within the specialization using a rubric.</p> <p>Student performance is scored as exemplary, satisfactory, or unsatisfactory based on the effectiveness of communication reflected in answers to comprehensive exam questions.</p>	<p>Student 1: 100% satisfactory            Student 2: 100% exemplary            Student 3: 100% satisfactory            Student 4: 100% exemplary            Student 5: 100% unsatisfactory            Student 6: 50% satisfactory/ 50% unsatisfactory            Student 7: 100% satisfactory            Student 8: 100% satisfactory            Student 9: 100% satisfactory</p> <p><u>Overall Student Performance</u>            22% exemplary            61% satisfactory            17% unsatisfactory</p>	Data were reviewed by the PhD Program Director and Department Chair. Results were reported to the PhD program faculty and significant findings were discussed at the Spring faculty meeting.	<p>As a result of assessment results showing difficulty with written communication, the program has begun to refer students to the CSU Writing Center for assistance.</p> <p>Due to the growing proportion of international students in the program, a course has been created to assist students with oral presentation and communication skills. A dedicated ESL tutor has been hired to assist Urban Affairs students with written English.</p>
Students will acquire the skills to communicate at a professional level within the areas of scholarship and professional practice of their area of expertise.	<p>Dissertation prospectuses are evaluated by faculty members on their committees using a rubric.</p> <p>Student performance is scored as exemplary, satisfactory, or unsatisfactory based on the effectiveness of communication reflected in each prospectus presentation.</p>	<p>Student 1: 100% exemplary            Student 2: 33% exemplary/ 67% satisfactory            Student 3: 100% unsatisfactory            Student 4: 40% exemplary/ 50% satisfactory/ 10% unsatisfactory</p> <p><u>Overall Student Performance</u>            43% exemplary            29% satisfactory            28% unsatisfactory</p>	Data were reviewed by the PhD Program Director and Department Chair. Results were reported to the PhD program faculty and significant findings were discussed at the Spring faculty meeting.	<p>No action at this time.</p> <p>2006-2007 data will be reviewed by program faculty in Fall 2007.</p>
Students will acquire the skills to communicate at a professional level within the areas of scholarship and professional practice of their area of expertise.	<p>Student dissertations are evaluated by faculty members on their committees using a rubric.</p> <p>Student performance is scored as exemplary, satisfactory, or unsatisfactory based on the effectiveness of communication reflected in each prospectus presentation.</p>	<p>Student 1: 15% exemplary/ 85% satisfactory            Student 2: 50% exemplary/ 50% satisfactory            Student 3: 83% exemplary/ 17% satisfactory            Student 4: 56% exemplary/ 44% satisfactory</p> <p><u>Overall Student Performance</u>            51% exemplary            49% satisfactory</p>	Data were reviewed by the PhD Program Director and Department Chair. Results were reported to the PhD program faculty and significant findings were discussed at the Spring faculty meeting.	<p>No action at this time.</p> <p>2006-2007 data will be reviewed by program faculty in Fall 2007.</p>