DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND CITY & REGIONAL PLANNING

College Of Social Sciences

**STUDENT OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT PLAN (SOAP)**

1. **Mission Statement**

The Department of Geography and City and Regional Planning is committed to provide effective teaching, advising and research opportunities. We prepare and motivate students to apply a variety of analytical tools to the study of urban and regional, and environmental problems that range in scale from local concerns to global issues. We feel this is in keeping with the commitment of the larger university community by embracing a culture of diversity and internationalization, producing transformative scholarly research and creative works that address urban problems and global changes to promote economic development, environmental sustainability, and social equality.

1. **Goals and Student Learning Outcomes**

**Goal 1: The Department’s graduates will understand fundamental knowledge of urban planning.**

Outcome 1: They will explain the evolution of urban planning theories.

Outcome 2: They will explain and interpret the distribution, processes and linkages between land-uses, transportation, public infrastructure, and other sectors in a city.

**Goal 2: The Department’s graduates will understand, analyze, and address urban and environmental problems.**

Outcome 3: They will explain and critically evaluate urban problems in design, environment, transportation, and economy.

Outcome 4: They will be able to perform planning analysis and interpret the results.

**Goal 3: The Department’s graduates will be able to use planning tools and analytical techniques and apply them in a real world setting.**

Outcome 5: They will know how to implement urban plans by law.

Outcome 6: They will know how to practice planning with local agencies.

**Curriculum Map (Matrix of Courses X Learning Outcomes)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Course | Goal 1 | Goal 1 | Goal 2 | Goal 2 | Goal 3 | Goal 3 |
|  | Outcome 1 | Outcome 2 | Outcome 3 | Outcome 4 | Outcome 5 | Outcome 6 |
| 80 | I | I | I | I | I | I |
| 110 | A | R | R |  |  |  |
| 115 | R |  | A |  |  |  |
| 120 | R | A | R |  |  |  |
| 125 |  | R | A |  |  | R |
| 130 |  | R | A | R |  |  |
| 135 |  |  | R |  | A | R |
| 140 |  | R | A | R |  |  |
| 150A |  |  | R |  | R | A |
| 150B |  |  | R |  | R | A |

I=introduced, R=reinforced, A=advance

1. **Assessment Methods**

**Direct Measures**

1. The department will assess student papers and projects. These documents will be reviewed by department committee.

a. Each year the papers/projects will be only from a planning course and will be evaluated with their corresponding outcomes. Performance will be measured against a department-designed rubric. The department will construct and apply three scoring rubrics to evaluate the papers and projects collected each academic year. Students will need to earn a grade of “C” or better in order to meet the outcome.

2. Post- testing will be implemented in several courses to assess various outcomes. Specific short answer or essay questions will be asked to access not only their understanding of the outcome but their writing proficiency as well. The answers will be graded against a department rubric in which students will have to earn a grade of “C” or better to meet the outcome.

3. Class exercises covering socio-demographic and travel demand analyses will be evaluated to assess quantitative and reasoning skills. A grade of “C” or better will be required to meet the outcome.

**Indirect Measures (Alumni Survey is required)**

1. The department will conduct an alumni survey every 3 years to assess the employment status and graduate school placement of our undergraduate majors.

a. The survey will include questions about individual job placement, post-graduate school placement and will be sent to each undergraduate CRP alumnus. The department staff will organize the returned information into a database and a summary of the data will be provided to faculty and included in the self-assessment report.

2. The department will conduct a senior survey to measure students’ self-evaluations of advanced knowledge and of the program’s success.

3. Assessing internships. Surveys will be conducted with the former graduates of the department to understand usefulness of internship in their career pathways. Each question will have an associated score and an overall score equivalent to a “C” will be required to meet the outcome.

1. **Student Learning Outcomes X Assessment Methods Matrix**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Measure | Goal 1 | Goal 1 | Goal 2 | Goal 2 | Goal 3 | Goal 3 |
|  | Outcome 1 | Outcome 2 | Outcome 3 | Outcome 4 | Outcome 5 | Outcome 6 |
| Papers and projects | X | X | X | X |  |  |
| Post tests |  | X |  | X |  |  |
| Class exercises | X | X | X |  |  |  |
| Internship analysis |  |  |  |  | X | X |
| Alumni survey |  | X | X |  | X | X |
| Senior survey |  | X | X |  | X | X |

1. **Timeline for Implementation of Assessment Methods and Summary Evaluations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assessment activity | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
|  | AY 22/23 (CRP 80) | AY 23/24 (CRP 140) |  |  |  |
| Papers and projects | X | X |  |  |  |
| Post test | X |  |  |  |  |
| Exercise | X | X |  |  |  |
| Internship analysis |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alumni survey |  |  |  |  |  |
| Senior survey |  |  |  |  |  |
| Self-assessment report |  |  |  |  |  |
| Advisory board |  |  |  |  |  |

1. **Closing the Loop - Summary Evaluation, Curriculum Adjustment, and Reporting**

Assessment for AY 2022/2023: