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**Master of Architecture Degree Program
Assessment of Student Learning Plan
Kansas State University**

BY: *received*

- Check the box if your program's student learning outcomes have been modified since November 2003.

A. College, Department, and Date

College: **College of Architecture Planning and Design**
Department: **Architecture**
Date: **10/28/04**

B. Contact Person(s) for the Assessment Plans

James S. Jones, Head
Vladimir Krstic, Chair
Susanne Siepl-Coates, Assessment Advisor

C. Degree Program

Master of Architecture: A post-professional Masters Program.

D. Assessment of Student Learning Three-Year Plan

1. Student Learning Outcome(s)

KSU Graduate Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates of advanced degree programs at Kansas State University will:

Knowledge: Demonstrate thorough understanding and/or competency in a specific area of emphasis, study, or profession.

Master of Architecture corresponding SLO:

Graduates of the Master of Architecture Program at Kansas State University will:

1. Be able to prepare **background research**.
2. Be able to articulate an achievable Thesis or Terminal Project proposal.
3. Demonstrate an understating of relevant contemporary or historical theories of architecture.

Skills: Demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge through critical thinking, inquiry, analysis, and communication to solve problems and to produce scholarly and creative works, including but not limited to design, art, performance, or original research in the form of a thesis or dissertation.

Master of Architecture corresponding SLO:

Graduates of the Master of Architecture Program at Kansas State University will:

4. Demonstrate the ability to set a Research agenda --define and select appropriate research methods and apply them to solving problems of inquiry. Demonstrate the ability to complete and articulate verbally and visually and defend a Thesis or Terminal Project.

Attitudes and Professional Conduct: Exhibit an awareness of their responsibilities (professional integrity, ethical behavior, ability to work with diverse groups of peoples, etc.) and engage in professional conduct towards all constituent groups, including students, faculty, public, etc.

Master of Architecture corresponding SLO:

Graduates of the Master of Architecture Program at Kansas State University will:

5. Demonstrate integrity, professional conduct and ethical research throughout the students' tenure in the program.

Rationale for selecting these learning outcomes:

The first five will be assessed in one form; the last, primarily by another means.

Two thirds of the Master of Architecture students are foreign born. In the incoming class of 2004-05 (many of whom will be here for the assessment period) there are students from India, Ethiopia, Serbo-Croatia, and Russia. These students typically have more to teach us on diversity, than we to them. Nearly 100 percent of the graduate students serve as GTAs, or GRAs. Student performance of these duties is where most of the attitudes and professional conduct can be observed—in the classroom and the studio.

The assessment of all graduate students on stipend is in the form of semester-by-semester evaluations completed by the relevant faculty.

Program SLOs	University-wide SLOs (Graduate Programs)			Program SLO is conceptually different from university SLOs
	Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes and Professional Conduct	
1. Research Skills	X	X		
2. Proposal Preparation	X	X		
3. Understanding Theoretical Context	X		X	
4. Research Agenda and Thesis	X	X	X	
5. Professional Conduct			X	GTA and GRA Evaluations

2. How will the learning outcomes be assessed? What groups will be included in the assessment?

SLO 1. Research Skills are measured by performance on the semester project in ARCH 725 *Research Methods*. Students are required to develop a preliminary bibliography, a research protocol, and a pilot study. Their work is evaluated at a draft stage and as a final project. Other direct measures of these outcomes are seen in the thesis proposal where this skill is demonstrated to the satisfaction of Graduate Thesis Committee, defended publicly, and signed off by the Graduate Program Director and the Department Head in Architecture.

Oral presentations for Thesis Proposal and Thesis (open to graduate faculty.) Other direct measures are obtained in ARCH 715 *Architectural Seminar* in the form of essays and term papers graded by faculty. Architectural Thesis ARCH 899 is the capstone effort and where this skill is demonstrated to the satisfaction of Graduate Thesis Committee, defended publicly, and signed off by the Graduate Program Director and the Department Head in Architecture.

SLO 2. LAR 898 *Proposal Writing* is the first course for assessing this SLO. The graded outcome of the course is a preliminary Thesis Proposal for each student's thesis, identification of faculty for chairing the student's committee. The progress on the proposal is evaluated by course instructor, the students' Thesis Committee, and is presented orally to the faculty at large. Additionally the Departmental Graduate Committee Reviews all proposals for meeting the Masters Thesis or Project guidelines and signed off by the Graduate Program Director and the Department Head in Architecture.

SLO 3. Understanding the Architecture's theoretical context is the SLO of the Architectural Seminars ARCH 715, and ARCH 620 among others. Students select courses from over 30 different seminars. These seminars range from Middle Eastern Architecture to Professional Conduct. A minimum of 18 credit hours of seminars or elective courses is required.

The measures of learning are term papers and projects graded by each seminar faculty.

Students in their first year receive advising from the Graduate Program Director and the Student Advising Officer on course selection. In subsequent semesters the basic choice of the seminars is directed under the Program of Study and signed off by the Major Thesis Advisor, the Department Head and Graduate Program Director.

SLO 4. The Research Agenda and Thesis demonstrates the application of research skill and knowledge of theory, Architectural precedent and proposal writing found in SLO of the Thesis Proposal and Program of Study developed in conjunction with the second half of LAR 898. These are written statements that are also presented orally before a forum of the faculty. Critical input is made and the department's Graduate Committee presents written notes to each student. The graduate committee must approve and the Graduate Program Director and Department Head sign off on each proposal and program of study.

ARCH 899 *Thesis* culminates the student's efforts and demonstrates the skill, knowledge and critical thinking, to apply research and theory toward an independent project within appropriate areas of emphasis in the program and commensurate with expectations of a Masters Architecture degree is SLO of this capstone effort.

The thesis is defended orally. It is reviewed by the Thesis Committee (Chaired by a member of the Architecture faculty and two other advisors—one of whom may be external to the department and signed off by the Major Thesis Advisor and the Department Head and Graduate Program Director.

SLO 5. The SLOs for Attitudes and Professional Conduct are, in addition to being integral with the above program of study, are primarily assessed in evaluations of graduate students' performance as GTAs or GRAs.

In addition to semester evaluation by faculty members, the Graduate School also surveys GTAs. Course TEVALs also offer the opportunity for student input.

3. When will these outcomes be assessed? When and in what format will the results of the assessment be discussed?

Over each of the next three years we require each student to assemble a Graduate Portfolio from their coursework including copies of their major project from each course that they take plus their Thesis Proposal and Program of Study along with drafts and commentary. Copies of theses are already required for signature and will be added to the portfolio. The portfolio will be submitted at the end of their third semester. The portfolios will be reviewed and analyzed by the Department Head and Graduate Committee in the late spring or early summer for evidence of meeting the above SLOs. The results of this analysis will be presented to the graduate faculty in the fall. Summary observations will be forwarded to course instructors, and shared with incoming students to highlight expectations in their orientation meeting.

Among indirect measures are the University Survey of Graduates and Alumni, Graduate School Program Reviews, AIA honors, publications and awards for thesis projects.

4. What is the unit's process for using assessment results to improve student learning?

The Graduate Committee will be charged with presenting the will of the faculty to our Academic Affairs committee for desired curricular changes. The committee will also meet with the Department Head to discuss staffing and changes needed to specific courses. The Department Head will discuss with course instructors needed changes to course format or content.

