

**Template
Degree Program
Assessment of Student Learning Plan
Kansas State University**

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BY:.....

- Check the box if your program's student learning outcomes have been modified since November 2003. If so, please email (apr@ksu.edu) or attach a hard copy to this document.

A. College, Department, and Date

College: Architecture, Planning, and Design
Department: Landscape Architecture/Regional and Community Planning
Date: October 22, 2004

B. Contact Person(s) for the Assessment Plans

Al Keithley, Program Director

C. Degree Program

Master in Regional and Community Planning

D. Assessment of Student Learning Three-Year Plan

1. Student Learning Outcome(s)

Of the 14 standards prescribed by the program accrediting agency in the areas of Knowledge, Skills, and Values, Regional and Community Planning will focus on the following learning outcomes during the three-year assessment plan period.

Students shall demonstrate their ability in:

- written and oral communication skills
- history and theory of planning processes and practice, multi-cultural and diversity issues
- quantitative analysis and computer skills
- legal considerations of planning implementation (planning law)

Special rationale for selecting these learning outcomes (optional):

NA

Relationship to K-State Student Learning Outcomes (insert the program SLOs and check all that apply):

Program SLOs	University-wide SLOs (Graduate Programs)			Program SLO is conceptually different from university SLOs
	Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes and Professional Conduct	
1. Written and oral communication skills	X			
2. History and theory of planning processes and practice, multi-cultural and diversity issues	X		X	
3. Quantitative analysis and computer skills	X	X		
4. Legal considerations of planning implementation (planning law)	X	X		

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

1) Written and oral communication skills

- The Learning Outcome will be assessed on the basis of the student’s ability to effectively communicate written information and knowledge and ability to present information effectively. Written and oral communication skills will be directly assessed over the course of the semester in two selected courses; Planning Principles (PLAN 715) which requires 4 written papers each Fall semester and Planning Theory (PLAN 815) which requires multiple oral presentations each Fall semester. All 4 written papers completed in PLAN 715 shall be used in making the assessment of written skills; all oral presentations in PLAN 815 shall be used in making the assessment of oral skills. A matrix shall be included in each course syllabi that identifies the elements used to rank the quality of written and oral communication skills, and will be presented in a format ranking written and oral skills from “Acceptable High Quality –a letter grade ‘A’”: to “Unacceptable Low Quality—a letter grade ‘F’”. At the end of the 2005 Fall semesters, the results will be utilized to establish a base line, or average, for graduate students. This shall be used to judge the outcome performance of future students
- Graduate students enrolled in the MRCP program will be evaluated for this Learning Outcome.

2) History and theory of planning processes and practice

- The Learning Outcomes will be assessed on the basis of the student’s ability to demonstrate knowledge in the area of history and theory of planning processes

and practice that is presented in Planning Principles (PLAN 715). Students are also introduced to multi-cultural and diversity issues related to planning. Direct evaluation of this outcome will be obtained on the basis of examinations completed by students in Planning Principles each Fall semester, beginning in 2005. The course syllabus will provide a matrix indicating the evaluation technique for evaluating the examination outcome; and will be presented in a format that ranks examination skills from "Acceptable High Quality—a letter grade 'A'": to "Unacceptable Low Quality—a letter grade 'F'". An average grade point for the examinations for planning graduate students will be determined; this in turn will be used as a measure to judge the performance, or outcomes, of future graduate students enrolled in this class and completing the same course work and examinations.

- Graduate students enrolled in the MRCP program will be evaluated for this Learning Outcome.

3) Quantitative analysis and computer skills

- The Learning Outcome for Quantitative analysis and computer skills shall be directly assessed through graduate student performance in Planning Methods I (PLAN 801). Evaluation and obtainment of this outcome will be recorded on the basis of quantitative methods problems and examinations completed in Planning Methods each Fall semester, beginning in 2005. The course syllabus will provide a matrix indicating the evaluation technique for evaluating the quantitative methods problems and examination outcome; and will be presented in a format that ranks examination skills from "Acceptable High Quality—a letter grade 'A'": to "Unacceptable Low Quality—a letter grade 'F'". An average grade point for the examinations for planning graduate students will be determined; this in turn will be used as a measure to judge the performance, or outcomes, of future graduate students enrolled in this class and completing the same course work and examinations.
- Graduate students enrolled in the MRCP program will be evaluated for this Learning Outcome.

4) Legal considerations of planning implementation (planning law)

- Learning Outcomes for legal implementation of planning programs and regulations will be assessed in the Planning Law class (PLAN 753) offered each Fall semester. A direct evaluation of student knowledge and performance consistent with this outcome will be obtained through student examination of critical legal issues and cases. The course syllabus will provide a matrix indicating the evaluation technique for evaluating the examination outcome; and will be presented in a format that ranks examination skills from "Acceptable High Quality—a letter grade 'A'": to "Unacceptable Low Quality—a letter grade 'F'". An average grade point for the examinations for planning graduate students will be determined; this in turn will be used as a measure to judge the performance, or outcomes, of future graduate students enrolled in this class and completing the same course work and examinations.
- Graduate students enrolled in the MRCP program will be evaluated for this Learning Outcome.

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

Data for the four Learning Outcomes will be collected in the Fall Semester 2005, when each of the courses in which the outcomes to be assessed, is offered. At the end of the Fall 2005 semester, an average grade point of student performance in each of the Outcome areas will be

determined and serve as the baseline against which future performance by graduate student groups, in those classes, will be evaluated. Faculty and Advisory Board member will discuss the results of the initial outcome assessment in the Spring semester of each year.

Learning Outcomes	Timetable for Assessment Learning Outcomes			Baseline Created?
	2005	2006	2007	
Written and oral communication skills	Collect data, Fall PLAN 715 & 815	Review outcome performance	Review outcome performance	Established in Spring 2006, based on student performance in Fall 2005
History and theory of planning processes and practice, multi-cultural and diversity issues	Collect data, Fall PLAN 715	Review outcome performance	Review outcome performance	Established in Spring 2006, based on student performance in Fall 2005
Quantitative analysis and computer skills	Collect data, Fall PLAN 801	Review outcome performance	Review outcome performance	Established in Spring 2006, based on student performance in Fall 2005
Legal considerations of planning implementation (planning law)	Collect data, Fall PLAN 753	Review outcome performance	Review outcome performance	Established in Spring 2006, based on student performance in Fall 2005

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

<p>1. Written and oral communication skills If students fall below the baseline established by this outcome assessment plan, they will be referred to the appropriate department/program for assistance in raising their written and oral communication skill levels. In addition, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to remain in the graduate program in Regional and Community Planning. Faculty will also discuss possible improvements to help students better achieve this learning outcome.</p>
<p>2. History and theory of planning processes and practice If students do not perform to the baseline established in Fall 2005, then they do not have a grasp of the knowledge required for the course. Should their overall all grade points fall below a 3.0 GPA, they will be removed from the program. Faculty will evaluate the outcomes of the students in this area and if performance is not consistent with the baseline established, then faculty will determine when additional course work will be provided to meet the desired outcome.</p>
<p>3. Quantitative analysis and computer skills If students fall below the baseline established by assessment of this outcome, they may elect to retake the course. Students, however, must maintain a 3.0 GPA to remain in the program. Two semester of computer applications and quantitative analysis are provided the students. This assessment will take place in the first course. If student cannot grasp the skill and knowledge, then they will be removed from the program as their grade point average fall below the acceptable level. The Planning faculty will compare student performance with the baseline established at the beginning of Spring 2006 and if students are not meeting this baseline of performance, the faculty will make a determination of additional course work needed to be completed to assure obtainment of this outcome.</p>
<p>4. Legal considerations of planning implementation (planning law) If students do not grasp this important knowledge element, and fall below the outcome baseline, they will</p>

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likely be ill-prepared for professional practice. An acceptable level of knowledge must be above a 3.0 GPA. Students failing to meet that level, will either take the course or be removed from the program. If the faculty determines that students are learning below the baseline established in Spring 2006, the faculty will determine additional course material in legal issues will be met to achieve the desired outcome.