Assessing Learning Outcomes for Required Courses in the Bachelor of Science in Public Policy

	Apply social science methods and policy analysis to practical problems of government, communities, regions, and/or global issues.	**Demonstrate the ability to apply oral and written communication skills in public appearances, written reports and documents.**	**Follow ethical principles for citing sources, using human subjects, serving the public, and working with colleagues.**	**Develop critical thinking about public policy issues and the ability to conduct professional analyses of social, political, and economic structures and bureaucratic processes**
Policy Core Classes *PS 331 State & Local Politics*	4 "think pieces" apply various policy-making models to state and local gov't decisions	Evaluation criteria for written think pieces provided as rubric		Evaluation rubric includes critical thinking criteria including compare & contrast, synthesize, & analyze
PS 371 Public Policy Problems	3 written essays on current policy issues demonstrating ability to apply policy theory (e.g., Obamacare: Fix, Repeal, Or?)	Rubric for written paper; oral presentation on a selected topic related to second essay (e.g., Should we worry about public pensions?)	Review of ethical issues related to each "case"	Evaluation rubric includes critical thinking criteria including compare & contrast, synthesize, & analyze, and analyze
PS 372 Public Administration	5 response papers to assigned readings and lectures, applying key theoretical perspectives or theories	Description of what makes a good written paper, focused on how to make a strong argument	Evaluation rubric includes information for sourcing and citing; requirements include consideration of ethical issues in each response paper	Rubric for "good" papers include use of evidence to make argument, sourcing and citing, evaluation of existing literature, and analyzing current policy issues
PPOL 413 Ethics	3 graded reading briefs demonstrate comprehension of class readings and ethical frameworks. Essay 2 is designed for students to reflect on ethical theories covered in class. The final	3 graded reading briefs and one final paper demonstrate student's ability to apply ethical standards to a wide variety of ethical issues in the policy arena.	3 graded reading briefs demonstrate comprehension of class readings and ethical frameworks. Essay 1 is designed so students lay out ethical positions and ethical experiences prior	Evaluation rubric includes synthesis and analysis of results as well as developing and justifying ethical reasons for policy recommendations.

	paper is a case study analysis to apply knowledge of ethical theories and applications.		to delving into the course content. Essay 3 is creation of a vignette describing a policy ethical dilemma.	
PPOL 409 Professional Seminar	Seminar covers professional development topics (e.g., individual development plans, writing application letters, completing a capstone project, etc.) that are graded only as pass/fail. Attendance is mandatory.			
CORE ELECTIVES *Choose 1 Econ 435 Political Economy*	3 exams include both multiple choice and short essay questions addressing theories of public economics	Review peer-reviewed article (from list supplied by Professor); oral presentation of review of second article		Exams measure ability to assess costs/benefits of public projects and explain the efficiency and equity motivations for social spending programs
PS 458 International Political Economy	Response to at least one article each week demonstrates students' comprehension. Final paper analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating ideas and concepts on a selected issue. Exams on reading and lectures, short-answer and long essay.	Extensive written assignments, demonstrating ability to analyze and evaluate arguments in scientific literature and policy documents.		Exams and paper rubric focus on analysis, synthesis, and evaluation – all higher order critical thinking skills.
Soc 360 Population Trends & Policy	3 exams (long-form essay questions) test students' understanding of demographic variables (e.g. education, race, class, etc.) and connections between demographic trends and current policy issues. Weekly "one-pager"	In-class discussion of position papers drafted in class. Weekly one-pagers to synthesize and respond to critical ideas.		Essay exams and one-page responses require students to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate multiple sources of information to form consistent and coherent arguments.

	responding to instructor's prompt to assess issues from reading or lecture.			
CORE METHODS *PPOL 421 Intro to Policy Research*	3 reflection papers consider how material influences thinking about the research process. Weekly assignments for creative and open-ended practice. Assignments typically involve some combination of data collection or analysis, as well as generation of an accompanying memo to present experience and/or findings.	Discussion board postings offer opportunities to reflect publicly on the material and engage in the material with other students. Extensive writing assignments.	CITI CRC modules are standardized ethics training on specific content. Students complete all five modules selected for this course.	Evaluation criteria for papers and assignments designed to assess students' ability to implement research projects, using standard social science methods.
PPOL 422 Policy Analysis	5 written summaries assess comprehension of material. 5 short-answer quizzes assess comprehension of course topics. 8 assignments offer opportunities to practice selected course content, and include short essays, problem sets, peer feedback and preparation for longer-term assignments.	Memos 1 and 2, as well as a Final Memo and Presentation provide opportunities to integrate and communicate students' learning in an individualized and creative context.		Memo evaluation rubric focuses on critical writing and thinking skills including the use of relevant theory and empirical evidence. Other criteria include evaluation of policy options, appropriate analysis of empirical data, and inferences made from literature and data.