

DRAFT
February 2004
USP MS Assessment Procedures

Urban Studies Programs Mission:

The program in Urban Studies focuses on the growth and development of urban communities and social institutions in order to understand urban processes and develop policies for the resolution of contemporary social problems.

MS Program Mission Statement:

The Urban Studies master's degree is both "academic" and "professional," offering students a liberal arts approach to the understanding of the operation of urban social processes and their implications, and a set of research and policy tools designed to equip the urban policymaker for success in his or her career.

Intended Outcomes:

1. To develop students' independent research skills.
2. To strengthen students' communication skills, in written and oral form.
3. To provide students with a base of social science knowledge about urban social processes and their implications.

Assessment Criteria:

1. Students take courses that emphasize research methods, USP 921 and a quantitative methods course.
2. Overseen by a committee of three faculty, students complete and defend a MS thesis or paper on a research topic of their own choosing, conceptualization and analysis.
3. Students complete three courses in the core curriculum which focus on social science knowledge on urban processes (from a choice of four courses focusing on geographic, historical, political or sociological perspectives).
4. Students are counseled on career options, and are tracked to alumni status.

Assessment Method: Survey of students graduating in the past year; survey of advisors of students graduating in past year.

Assessment Results: Compiled by Steering Committee and presented annually in faculty meeting.