Assessment Plan

Program: MA in Public Administration (MPA)
College of Business & Public Management
School of Criminal Justice & Public Administration
Dr. Morgan Laury, Coordinator

Mission:
The Master of Public Administration Program at Kean University is committed to the advanced professional preparation of primarily in-service students from the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area for managerial roles in state and local government, health services organizations, and environmental management arenas. We are dedicated to the provision of a program that will:

• Inculcate generalist managerial skills
• Provide competence in current and cutting edge managerial technologies
• Establish the ability to function effectively in complex, culturally diverse organizational structures
• Expand and evolve to meet changing regional needs
• Promote student commitment to ethical standards of managerial practice.

The program is dedicated to maintaining an educational environment in which diversity can flourish and an atmosphere in which mutual respect characterizes relations among members of a pluralist community.

Assessment Process:
MPA students have 5 required courses to take as part of the requirements for the degree regardless of concentration (PA 5000, PA 5010, PA 5030, PA 5031, PA 5990). Additionally, students pursuing the general program have 3 additional required courses (PA 5020, PA 5040, PA 5A 5050), and those pursuing a concentration in health care administration have 5 additional required courses (PA 5810, PA 5820, PA 5825, PA 5830, PA 5850). A required 6 credit internship is also part of the MPA program. Beyond these courses and the internship, students take two additional electives in PA. The required courses provide the foundation for research and theoretical aspects of Public Administration, as well as practice in various areas of the field.

The program’s learning goals, and subsequent assessment of these learning goals, is concentrated on the five courses required of all MPA students. Each core course incorporates multiple assessment tools as part of the evaluation process; however, culminating assessment is done towards the end of the student’s degree program; specifically, in PA 5990. Data is also collected as part of the required internship. Finally, technical and quantitative skills are evaluated in courses devoted to those topics. Each year, composite data from scored student assignments will be collected and analyzed to address areas of program strengths and weaknesses and to inform our decisions ultimately resulting in program improvements.

8/12/2011
Our learning goals (SLOs), consistent with our mission of preparing students for management roles in government, health administration and non-profit organizations, are listed below.

**Students graduating with an MPA from Kean University will:**

1. Effectively use appropriate research methods, software and statistical techniques to analyze public policy issues.
2. Be able to formulate a public policy at the city-, state- or national-level, including developing an implementation plan.
3. Apply theory and analytical skills in solving real world problems in public administration.
4. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
5. Demonstrate professional behaviors in a professional setting.

**SLO1:** Effectively use appropriate research methods, software and statistical techniques to analyze public policy issues.

*Direct Measure:* Case or research project in required course assessed with rubric.

*Indirect Measure:* Graduating Student Survey and Alumni Survey

**SLO 2:** Be able to formulate a public policy at the city-, state- or national-level, including an implementation plan.

*Direct Measure:* (1) case or research assignment assessed with rubric. (Note: could be same assignment as used for SLO 1)

*Indirect Measure:* Graduating Student Survey and Alumni Survey

**SLO3:** Apply theory and analytical skills in solving real world problems in public administration.

*Direct Measure:* (New) paper submitted at the end of internship OR research project in PA 5990.

*Indirect Measure:* Graduating Student Survey, alumni survey. Internship supervisor survey (if applicable).

**SLO 4:** Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

*Direct Measure:* Oral presentations and written assignment in PA 5990, assessed with rubric.

Alternatively, could incorporate a paper + presentation at the completion of internship.

*Indirect Measure:* Graduating Student Survey, Internship supervisor survey.

**SLO 5:** Demonstrate professional behaviors in a professional setting.

*Direct measure:* Internship supervisor assessment

*Indirect measure:* alumni survey

8/12/2011
Assessment Plan

Program: BA in Public Administration
College of Business & Public Management
School of Criminal Justice & Public Administration
Dr. Morgan Laury, Coordinator

DRAFT Program Mission:
The BA in Public Administration provides students with the information, skills and insight needed to excel in careers in the not-for-profit and public service sectors. Our undergraduate program combines a firm theoretical foundation with an understanding of practical applications. Teaching methods in both elective and required courses stress the use of case studies, hands-on experience, and simulations that demonstrate how theory and concepts evolve into practical applications. *(insert something here about scholarship)*

We are dedicated to the provision of a program that will:

- Develop the skills and educational foundation requisite for success in public administration careers
- Establish the ability to function effectively in complex, culturally diverse organizational structures
- Expand and evolve to meet changing regional needs
- Promote student commitment to ethical standards of managerial practice.

The program is dedicated to maintaining an educational environment in which diversity can flourish and an atmosphere in which mutual respect characterizes relations among members of a pluralist community.

Assessment Process:
There are 7 required courses (including the capstone) in the major for the BA in Public Administration: PA 2000, PA 2010, PA 3001, PA 3100, PA 3110, PA 3200, PA 3300 and PA 4000. Additionally, there are 4 required courses for the major outside of PA (Acc 2200, ENG 3090, ECO 1020 and PS 2100); student are also required to take 4 elective courses in PA. This core provides students with the skills and knowledge base they need to understand the workings of the public sector, and the capstone course provides the opportunity to integrate the knowledge from the “core.”

The program’s learning goals, and subsequent assessment of these learning goals, is concentrated on the courses required of all PA students. Each core course incorporates multiple assessment tools as part of the evaluation process; however, culminating assessment is done towards the end of the student’s degree program; specifically, in PA 4000.

Each year, composite data from scored student assignments will be collected and analyzed to address areas of program strengths and weaknesses and to inform decisions ultimately resulting in program improvements.

8/12/2011
Learning goals for the BA in Public Administration – also known as student learning objectives or SLOs- are consistent with our mission of preparing students for management roles in government, health administration and non-profit organizations, are listed below.

**Students graduating with a BA in Public Administration from Kean University will:**

1. Know the concepts and theories that provide the foundation for the study of public administration;
2. Have the quantitative and research skills to critically analyze public administration issues.
3. Have the information technology skills germane to study and practice of public administration.
4. Effectively communicate both orally and in writing.
5. Be able to develop/formulate a public policy response to a “real world” social or economic problem.

**SLO1: Knowledge: concepts, theories, models**
*Direct Measure:* Comprehensive knowledge exam, developed by faculty, administered in PA 4000.
*Indirect Measure:* Graduating Student Survey and Alumni Survey

**SLO 2:** Analytical and critical thinking skills.
*Direct Measure:* Capstone project, assessed with rubric
*Indirect Measure:* Graduating Student Survey and Alumni Survey

**SLO 3:** Information technology skills
*Direct Measure:* Technology test (McGraw Hill product) or technology assignments administered in PA 3001
*Indirect Measure:* Graduating Student Survey, alumni survey.

**SLO 4:** Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

*Direct Measure:* Oral presentations and paper for capstone project, assessed with rubric
*Indirect Measure:* Graduating Student Survey, Internship supervisor survey.

SLO 5: Formulate strategy
*Direct measure:* Capstone project assessed with rubric
*Indirect measure:* Graduating Student Survey, alumni survey.

8/12/2011