Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives, with Any Associations and Related Measures, Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

SLO 1: Knowledge about urban studies processes
Students will demonstrate advanced knowledge about contemporary urbanization trends and the social, economic and environmental processes that impact urban societies.

Related Measures

M 1: Mastery of Core Competencies
During their final semester, students who have selected the Comprehensive Exam and Portfolio route to the MSUS degree will study a series of 8-10 essay questions centered on topics and debates in Urban Studies in order to prepare for their qualifying exams.

Source of Evidence: Academic direct measure of learning - other

Target:
Students who have selected the Comprehensive Exam and Portfolio route to the MSUS degree will have successfully passed their essay qualifying exams by the end of their 4th semester (for full time enrolled students).

M 2: Portfolio
Students enrolled in the Comprehensive Exam route to the MSUS degree will develop a Portfolio in consultation with their advisor. The portfolio will include 3 samples of the student's work that demonstrates a range of competencies and includes 1) a cover letter for a job; 2) an analytical piece; 3) a technical piece

Source of Evidence: Portfolio, showing skill development or best work

Target:
The MSUS graduate committee will evaluate student portfolio components: analytical, methods, and descriptive work (eg. literature reviews, proposals for research, field reports) to ensure they engage with urban studies processes.

M 3: Thesis Research
Source of Evidence: Senior thesis or culminating major project

Target:
Students enrolled in the Thesis route to the MSUS degree will successfully defend their original research on an Urban Studies topic, as evaluated by a 3 person committee.

M 4: Capstone examination
Completion of capstone examination for all non thesis students.

Source of Evidence: Academic direct measure of learning - other

Target:
Students will submit and revise essay questions in their defined area of specialization, in consultation with their advisor at the beginning of their final semester of study. Their advisor will select one of these questions to include in the student's qualifying exam at the end of the semester.

SLO 2: Defined area of specialization
Students will demonstrate in depth knowledge in one of the following areas of specialization: applied anthropology, cultural resource management, geography, historic preservation or urban planning

Related Measures

M 2: Portfolio
Students enrolled in the Comprehensive Exam route to the MSUS degree will develop a Portfolio in consultation with their advisor. The portfolio will include 3 samples of the student's work that demonstrates a range of competencies and includes 1) a cover letter for a job; 2) an analytical piece; 3) a technical piece

Source of Evidence: Portfolio, showing skill development or best work

Target:
Advisor will ensure that student portfolio components clearly communicate and illustrate their area of specialization: Urban Anthropology, Cultural Research Management, Historic Preservation, Urban Planning, or a specially designed and previously approved area of specialization.

M 3: Thesis Research
Source of Evidence: Senior thesis or culminating major project

Target:
Student’s thesis will clearly articulate interdisciplinary framework, and contribution to a specified area of specialization, as evaluated by the 3-person committee.

M 4: Capstone examination
Completion of capstone examination for all non thesis students.

Source of Evidence: Academic direct measure of learning - other

Target:
Students will submit and revise essay questions in their defined area of specialization, in consultation with their advisor at the beginning of their final semester of study. Their advisor will select one of these questions to include in the student's qualifying exam at the end of the semester.

M 8: Comprehensive Exam and Portfolio Degree Option
Please delete this measure—it is a duplicate
SLO 3: Synthesizing urban studies literature
Students will demonstrate their ability to synthesize and analyze major debates through the use of urban studies literature and professional reports

Related Measures
M 2: Portfolio
Students enrolled in the Comprehensive Exam route to the MSUS degree will develop a Portfolio in consultation with their advisor. The portfolio will include 3 samples of the student’s work that demonstrates a range of competencies and includes 1) a cover letter for a job; 2) an analytical piece; 3) a technical piece
Source of Evidence: Portfolio, showing skill development or best work

Target:
Student portfolio submission statement clearly links to contemporary or historical Urban Studies issues as defined in MSUS curriculum core.

M 3: Thesis Research
Source of Evidence: Senior thesis or culminating major project

Target:
Student thesis will demonstrate critical engagement with urban studies scholarship relevant to their research inquiry, as evaluated by the 3-person committee

M 4: Capstone examination
Completion of capstone examination for all non thesis students.
Source of Evidence: Academic direct measure of learning - other

Target:
Students will critically engage with key topics, sources, and debates in Urban Studies, in their comprehensive essay exam.

M 8: Comprehensive Exam and Portfolio Degree Option
Please delete this measure—it is a duplicate
Source of Evidence: Comprehensive/end-of-program subject matter exam

SLO 4: Qualitative and quantitative research methods and analytical techniques
Students will demonstrate advanced understanding of qualitative and quantitative research methods and analytical techniques and their application to urban and regional studies

Related Measures
M 2: Portfolio
Students enrolled in the Comprehensive Exam route to the MSUS degree will develop a Portfolio in consultation with their advisor. The portfolio will include 3 samples of the student’s work that demonstrates a range of competencies and includes 1) a cover letter for a job; 2) an analytical piece; 3) a technical piece
Source of Evidence: Portfolio, showing skill development or best work

Target:
80% of students will score high on the portfolio

M 3: Thesis Research
Source of Evidence: Senior thesis or culminating major project

Target:
Student thesis will demonstrate mastery of qualitative and quantitative research methods and analytical techniques by critically engaging with them in their thesis research design.

M 7: Methods Mastery
Exams in the two required methods courses: Quantitative and Qualitative Research methods.
Source of Evidence: Academic direct measure of learning - other

Target:
Students will successfully complete the final project requirements in Qualitative Research Methods and Quantitative Research Methods courses as outlined in the MSUS core curriculum.

M 8: Comprehensive Exam and Portfolio Degree Option
Please delete this measure—it is a duplicate
Source of Evidence: Comprehensive/end-of-program subject matter exam