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

SLO 1: Knowledge about major urban studies topics
Students will have knowledge about contemporary urbanization trends and major urban studies topics

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

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 deem student portfolios qualified for conferring the MSUS degree.

M 3: Completion of thesis
Completion of thesis for thesis track students

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.

SLO 2: Defined area of specialization
Students will have in depth knowledge in a defined area of specialization

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: Completion of thesis
Completion of thesis for thesis track students

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.

SLO 3: Reading and understanding sources in urban studies
Students will be capable of reading and understanding both primary and secondary sources in urban 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:**
Student portfolio submission statement clearly links to contemporary or historical Urban Studies issues as defined in MSUS curriculum core.

**M 3: Completion of thesis**
Completion of thesis for thesis track students

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.

**SLO 4: Qualitative and quantitative research methods and analytical techniques**
Students will understand both qualitative and quantitative research methods and analytical techniques

**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: Completion of thesis**
Completion of thesis for thesis track students

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:**
90% of students will receive a B or better in the final exam or assignment in both methods courses.