

**Texas Southern University**  
**Assessment Narrative**  
**Academic Years 2007-08 thru 2009-10**

**BARBARA JORDAN – MICKEY LELAND SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**Program: Master of Urban Planning & Environmental Policy**

The mission of the Master of Arts in Urban Planning and Environmental Policy is to train students to become policy-oriented planners and environmental policy analysts and to assume leadership positions in planning and environmental policy-related organizations. The program places special emphasis on issues significant to communities and regions of the Southwest. The program's key goal is to prepare future urban planning professionals with analytical and policy formulation skills that allow them to address – with vision and foresight – the ecological problems caused by our environmental impact.

**Goal 1**

It has been the goal of the Urban Planning and Environmental Planning (UPEP) MA Program to prepare future urban planning professionals with analytical and policy formulation skills that allow them to address with vision and foresight urban planning and environmental policy issues.

**Outcome 1.1 – Students will demonstrate knowledge in the field of urban planning theory and application**

The first learning objective is to ensure that the students have gained a demonstrable knowledge in the field of planning theory and application. This involves familiarizing students with subjects such as planning history, planning theories, land use and transportation planning, local economic development, sustainable development, and environmental planning and policy. Students are tested on these subjects through a comprehensive exam tool at the end of their course of study that includes a section on Planning Theory. The results of this exam section are used as the metric to measure the success of the first learning objective of the UPEP MA program.

The Program's target in the years 2007-08; 2008-09; and 2009-10 were to have at least 90% of all students who appeared for the exam to pass the Planning Theory section.

**Findings (2008-2010)**

The Program was able to achieve its target in all three years—a total of eight students appeared for the exam between fall 2007 and fall 2009 and all nine passed the exam.

**Action Plan Summary – 2007-2008**

To maintain this track record in the future, the UPEP MA Program aims to further improve teaching excellence in the subjects related to planning theory and applications.

**Action Plan Summary – 2008-2009**

Provide review sessions for these subjects to students prior to the comprehensive exam.

**Action Plan Summary – 2009-2010**

Allow students to re-take the exam if they fail this section in the first attempt.

**Outcome 1.2 – Students will demonstrate knowledge and skills in analytical planning methodology**

The second learning objective of the MA program is to ensure that the students have gained demonstrable knowledge and skills in analytical planning methods. This involves introducing them to method-oriented subjects such as statistical analysis, Geographic Information Systems, and Environmental Impact Assessments. At the end of their course of study, students are expected to pass the Planning Methodology section of the comprehensive exam, which is the metric for the success of this second learning objective.

The UPEP MA Program's target for this objective in the year's 2007-08; 2008-09; and 2009-10 were to have at least 90% of all students who took the exam to pass the Planning Methodology section.

**Texas Southern University**  
**Assessment Narrative**  
**Academic Years 2007-08 thru 2009-10**

**BARBARA JORDAN – MICKEY LELAND SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**Program: Master of Urban Planning & Environmental Policy**

**Findings (2008-2010)**

All eight students who took the Comprehensive Exam between fall 2007 and fall 2009 passed this section.

**Action Plan Summary – 2007-2008**

To maintain this track record in the future, the UPEP MA Program aims to further improve teaching excellence in the subjects related to planning theory and applications.

**Action Plan Summary – 2008-2009**

Provide review sessions for these subjects to students prior to the comprehensive exam.

**Action Plan Summary – 2009-2010**

Allow students to re-take the exam if they fail this section in the first attempt.

**Outcome 1.3 – Students will obtain hand on training in the field of planning practice**

The third learning objective of the UPEP MA Program is to ensure that the students obtain hands-on training in the field of planning practice. Toward this end, the program requires students to complete an internship course within their first two years of study. To meet requirements, students may intern at planning-based organizations within the Houston area or outside it.

The Program measures success towards this objective through Master's Internship Course completion. The Program's target for 2008-2010 was 90% completion.

**Findings (2008-2010)**

During this period, one hundred percent of all students enrolled in the program completed the Master's Internship Course within their first two years.

**Action Plan Summary – 2008-2010**

- Enhance the internship program by developing a list of internship positions.
- Provide a list of students interested in internship to local planning community.

**Texas Southern University**  
**Assessment Plan**  
**Academic Years 2007-08 thru 2009-10**

College/School: Public Affairs

THECB CIP Code 04.0301.00

Discipline/Program: Master of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy

Goal	Student Learning Outcomes/ Objectives	Metric	Target			Findings			Action Plan	Reference Document
			2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10		
<b>Goal 1</b> To prepare future urban planning professionals with analytical and policy formulation skills that allow them to address with vision and foresight the urban planning and environmental policy issues	<b>SLO 1.1</b> Students will demonstrate knowledge in urban planning theory and application	Scores on the Planning Theory Section in UPEP master's comprehensive examination	90% of the students will take and pass the Planning Theory Section in UPEP comprehensive examination	90% of the students will take and pass the Planning Theory Section in UPEP comprehensive examination	90% of the students will take and pass the Planning Theory Section in UPEP comprehensive examination	100% students took and passed the Planning Theory Section in the comprehensive exam (Two students took and passed the exam in Fall 2007 and two students took and passed the exam in Spring 2008)	100% students took and passed the Planning Theory Section in the comprehensive exam (One student took and passed in Fall 2008 and two students took and passed the exam in Spring 2009)	100% students took and passed the Planning Theory Section in the comprehensive exam (one student in Fall 2009)	<b>Based on 2007-08 Findings</b> Enhance teaching excellence for planning theory related courses  <b>Based on 2008-2009 Findings</b> Provide review sessions on planning theory before the comprehensive exam  <b>Based 2009-2010 Findings</b> Allow students to re-take the exam if they fail the planning theory section at the first attempt	<b>R.1.1</b> UPEP Master's comprehensive exam reports 2007-2010

**Texas Southern University**  
**Assessment Plan**  
**Academic Years 2007-08 thru 2009-10**

College/School: Public Affairs

THECB CIP Code 04.0301.00

Discipline/Program: Master of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy

Goal	Student Learning Outcomes/ Objectives	Metric	Target			Findings			Action Plan	Reference Document
			2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10		
	<b>SLO 1.2</b> Students will demonstrate knowledge and skills in analytical planning methodology	Scores on the Planning Theory Section in UPEP master's comprehensive examination	90% of the students will take and pass the Planning Methodology Section in the comprehensive examination	90% of the students will take and pass the Planning Methodology Section in the comprehensive examination	90% of the students will take and pass the Planning Methodology Section in the comprehensive examination	100% of students took and passed the Planning Methodology Section in the comprehensive exam (Two students took and passed the exam in Fall 2007 and two students took and passed the exam in Spring 2008)	100% of students took and passed the Planning Methodology Section in the comprehensive exam (One student took and passed in Fall 2008 and two students took and passed the exam in Spring 2009)	100% of students took and passed the Planning Methodology Section in the comprehensive exam (one student in Fall 2009)	<p><b>Based on 2007-08 Findings</b> Enhance teaching excellence for planning theory related courses</p> <p><b>Based on 2008-2009 Findings</b> Provide review sessions on planning theory before the comprehensive exam</p> <p><b>Based 2009-2010 Findings</b> Allow students to re-take the exam if they fail the planning theory section at the first attempt</p>	<b>R.1.1</b> UPEP Master's comprehensive exam reports 2007-2010
	<b>SLO 1.3</b> Students will demonstrate hands-on training in the planning practice field	UPEP Master's Internship Course completion	90% of the students will complete the internship course in the first two year of study	90% of the students will complete the internship course in the first two year of study	90% of the students will complete the internship course in the first two year of study	100% students took the internship course in the first two-years of study	100% students took the internship course in the first two-years of study	100% students took the internship course in the first two-years of study	<p><b>Based on 2008-2011 Findings</b> Enhance the internship program by developing a list of internship positions</p> <p>Provide a list of the students interested in internships to local planning communities</p>	<b>R1.3</b> Internship Course Summary