# 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.

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## 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.

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

College/School: Public Affairs

Discipline/Program: Master of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy

THECB CIP Code <u>04.0301.00</u>

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

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College/School: Public Affairs

Discipline/Program: Master of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy

THECB CIP Code <u>04.0301.00</u>

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

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