

Department of Public Affairs and Administration
Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program Learning Outcomes

First, Identify 3 to 5 Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). These SLOs will be placed in the 2005-2006 online catalog.

Second, identify the methods for assessing each of these learning outcomes. They may be essays, recitals, quantitative exams, rubrics, etc.

Outcome: MPA graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to understand core concepts and theories in public administration, that is, knowing the basic concepts in public administration and their fundamental theoretical presuppositions.

Indicators:

1. Be able to define, give examples, and demonstrate the relevance of the interpretive, phenomenological, hermeneutical basic orientations toward public administration.
2. Knowledge of key theorists in the field of public administration, including how their contributions enhance the field.

Outcome: MPA graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the role of theory in public administration, and how to apply these theories toward administrative inquiry.

Indicators:

1. Be able to understand theory and explain its role in building administrative knowledge.
2. Be able to recognize the connection between interpretive and functional orientations toward administrative theory building.
3. Be able to compare and contrast theoretical orientations in the field of public administration.
4. Be able to show how theories reflect administrative practice.
5. Be able to construct a reasoned argument based on a theoretical perspective.
6. For some given administrative phenomena, students will be able to use this theoretical perspective to illuminate the administrative understanding in the delivery of public goods.

Outcome: Public Administration graduates will demonstrate the ability to articulate a clear sense of purpose as professionals in the public service to be demonstrated in the following ways:

Indicators:

1. Completion of PuAd 4800, 5000, 6811, 6812 & 6901
2. Completion of key writing assignments in these courses
3. Ability to apply theory-based knowledge concerning organizations and management that has been or promises to be useful in my work.

Outcome: MPA graduates will demonstrate an understanding of interpretive and quantitative research methodologies.

Indicators:

1. Be able to recognize how one uses interpretive and quantitative methods in administrative research.
2. Be able to identify basic methodological approaches and describe the general role of methods in building administrative knowledge.
3. Be able to compare and contrast basic methodological approaches for data gathering.
4. Be able to critically assess a published research report.
5. Be able to link theory and method.
6. Be cognizant of ethical issues in administrative research.
7. Be able to understand the role of research in public administration.