Master of Public Administration
Program Assessment Plan
Mission Statement:

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) program is an integrated part of the Hugo Wall School at Wichita State University. The School consists of the Master of Public Administration program, the Center for Urban Studies and the Kansas Public Finance Center. The mission of the Master of Public Administration program is threefold: (1) to provide high-quality education in public administration for both traditional and non-traditional students as preparation for successful careers in the public and quasi-public sectors; (2) to undertake applied, problem-centered research for local and state governments, particularly in areas of management, policy evaluation, and financial management; and (3) to provide training, technical assistance, and consultant services to government practitioners in the areas of public management, public finance, public policy, and other areas of concern. The instructional objective of the Master of Public Administration degree is intimately intertwined with its research and public service activities and may not be fully appreciated independently of those research and public service missions and their evolution at Wichita State University. The underlying theme of the Master of Public Administration program’s mission is commitment to public service. We educate students for the public service. Our research is focused on improving public policy, public management, and public finance. Our service activities focus on training local government practitioners to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their organizations and on providing technical assistance to solve problems in their communities. In sum, the interaction of teaching, research, and service synergize the Master of Public Administration degree program, creating a more productive and cost effective unit than would be possible if functions were segregated.

The following program objectives and assessment methods focus primarily on the teaching component of the Master of Public Administration program, which is the first item mission item listed above.

Program Objectives:

1. To provide full-time students with core and elective courses in such a manner that they can complete the program in two years according to National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) guidelines.

2. To place at least five students each year in competitive internships within local, state, and federal governments.

3. To assist traditional students (one who does not currently have a career position) in finding professional positions in state and local government.
Program Assessment Methods:

1. Monitor course offerings to ensure the core courses required of all students and electives courses required for certificates are offered over each two-year period.

2. Monitor the number of students placed in the competitive internships.

3. Monitor the number of traditional graduates finding jobs within 9 months of graduation, and provide specific examples of student accomplishments in this respect. The program strives to place at least 75% of the traditional graduates within that 9 month period.

Student Objectives and Assessment of Student Learning (Course Based):

Assessment of the quality of students understanding of key concepts in public administration is based on students’ performance in the eight core courses that all students must take. A specific objective and measure is provided for each course in the next section entitled course-based assessment of student learning. Data will be collected at the end of each semester and reported when required by the Graduate School.

PADM 702, Research Methods in Public Administration
**Student Objective:** Students will demonstrate understanding of positivist research methods used to answer research questions in public administration.
**Assessment Measure:** Percentage of students achieving a grade of 80 percent or better in the course.

PADM 710, Public Sector Organization Theory & Behavior
**Student Objective:** Students will demonstrate understanding of the major ideas in the classical, neoclassical, humanist and systems theories and ability to apply these ideas of organizational theory and behavior.
**Assessment Measure:** Percentage of students attaining a grade of 80 percent or better on the case analyses included in the mid-term and final examinations.

PADM 725, Public Management of Human Resources
**Student Objective:** Students will demonstrate understanding of the major issues impacting human resources in the public sector.
**Assessment Measure:** Percentage of students attaining a grade of 80 percent or better in the course examination.

PADM 745, The Environment of Public Administration
**Student Objective:** Student will demonstrate understanding of the political environment of public administration.
**Assessment Measure:** Percentage of students attaining a grade of 80 percent or better in the course.
PADM 765, Public Sector Economics
**Student Objective:** Students will demonstrate understanding of the economics of taxation and other governmental revenue sources.
**Assessment Measure:** Percentage of students receiving a grade of 80 percent or better on the final examination.

PADM 802, Quantitative Methods for Public Sector Professionals
**Student Objective:** Students will be able to formulate statistically testable propositions, perform appropriate analyses on an existing data set, and interpret those results.
**Assessment Measure:** Percentage of students achieving a grade of 80 percent or better on their main project.

PADM 865, State and Local Government Finance
**Student Objective:** Students will understand and apply concepts of public finance and resource allocation in a federal form of government.
**Assessment Measure:** Percentage of students attaining a grade of 80 percent or better in the course.

PADM 895, Public Decision Making
**Student Objective:** Students will demonstrate master of the classical approaches to decision-making and how to apply those approaches.
**Assessment Measure:** Percentage of students receiving a grade of 80 percent or better on the final case analysis paper in the course.

**Feedback Loop:**
The public administration faculty meet frequently (usually monthly) to discuss programmatic issues and revisions. The faculty meet at the end of each semester to review student progress in course work and act on student progress including probations. The graduate program coordinator collects the data indicated in the “program objective assessment” section of this plan and presents it to the faculty once a year. Faculty consider this data and make programmatic changes as needed. Changes made are monitored continually for their effectiveness.