

# Students' Learning Assessment and Job Market Readiness

Presentation to PAB Visiting Committee February 27, 2024





Learning Assessment Plan

**Assessment Results** 

Job Market Readiness

Content

Transformative Action Plan



#### **Learning Assessment Plan**

New Curriculum: Main Components

Learning Assessment Plan

Assessment Rubric and Method

## **New Curriculum: Main Components**

Course Code	Course Title	Credits	Туре
PLAN6076	Planning History and Theory	3	CC
PLAN6602	GIS for Planning	4	CC
PLAN6077	Intro to the Planning Profession: Implementation Dilemma	3	CC
PLAN6552	Planning and Research Methods	4	CC
PLAN6116	Planning Law	3	CC
PLAN6603	Fundamentals of Plan Making	3	CC
PLAN6601	State, Market and Governance for Planners	3	CC
PLAN6996	Practicum	5	CC
PLAN6089*	Urban and Territorial Planning	3	AOE
PLAN6525*	Urban Structure	3	AOE
PLAN6528*	Urban Policy	3	AOE
ELECTIVES	Student selection	9	EC

CC: Core courses; AOE: Area of Emphasis; EC: Elective Courses

<sup>\*</sup> Example using Urban and Regional Planning Area of Emphasis

## **New Curriculum: Main Components**

#### **Competence Profile**

#### **General Planning Knowledge**

Mastery of diverse approaches and levels of abstraction

Ability to design and create a variety of planning instruments (policies, plans, programs, projects,

etc.)

Familiarity with diverse bodies of knowledge or disciplines

Capacity to work in inter- and multidisciplinary teams and environment

Ability to recognize and manage diversity and/or plurality (socio-demographic, environmental, economic, etc.)

Practical, hands-on experience

Capacity to handle diverse scales of analysis simultaneously (urban, regional, global, etc.)

#### **Specific Planning Skills**

Capacity to design and conduct practice-based, intervention-oriented research, and disseminate results and contributions

Ability to communicate ideas effectively (written, verbal, graphic)

Mastery of technical writing applied to proposal writing the drafting of public policy documents, among other.

Ability to work with software programs for data processing and analysis as well as for programming and transmitting information (project management, statistics, CAD, simulation, etc.)

Ability to design and conduct spatial analysis processes / digital cartography / Geographic Information Systems

Orientation towards solving problems and implementing solutions

Aptitude for the evaluation of pertinence and adequacy of solutions

Mastery of techniques for scenario design and evaluation, prognosis, etc.

Mastery of core quantitative and qualitative methods, including:

- · Descriptive and inferential statistics
- · Cost-benefit analysis
- Questionnaire design
- Focus groups and interviews
- Field work plans

Leadership

Entrepreneurial spirit

#### **Values and Ethics**

Commitment with sustainability

Ability to navigate through institutional/political process dynamics

Sense of social responsibility and a commitment with equity

Use of critical thought

Awareness of the ethical boundaries of the planning practice

## **Learning Assessment Plan Method**

- The New Curriculum includes an assessment plan that attempts to measure the development of skills, knowledge base and values in students in alignment with the discipline as wells as accreditation standards. Thirty-seven criteria are part of the assessment instrument.
- The applicable indicators for each pertinent course (entry vs. exit measures) has been defined in the plan according to the curricular sequence and competence profile.
- In addition, UPRRP requires the submission of three-year Learning Assessment Plans for each academic program.
- Every year the Program must submit a report on performance along with a transformative action plan to address any findings or incorporate new measures to strengthen skill development processes.
- The UPRRP uses an online platform in which every semester professors must complete assessment measures for each student in their course.



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## **Learning Assessment Plan Method**

- The 37 criteria are organized and summarized along the six domains that are part of the UPRRP's strategic framework:
- 1. Information Literacy
- 2. Effective Communication Skills
- 3. Content Knowledge, Skills, or Dispositions
- 4. Research and Creation
- 5. Critical Thinking
- 6. Social Responsibility
- Each domain is measured with a series of criteria that are quantified in a scale of 0 to 8. The established standard is that a minimum of 70 percent of the students attain an average score above 6.0.
- Assessment results have helped identify skill and content areas that require strengthening to meet labor market needs. In addition, they have served as basis for improvement of curriculum design and teaching methodologies.

Criterion	Beginning (1 - 2)	In process (3 - 4)	Good (5 - 6)	Excellent (7 - 8)	Learning Outcome
Communicate effectively in student's writing and oral	It is not brief or clear in its	It is not brief and/or communicates partially clear	It is brief and communicates adequately in its analysis of	It is brief and communicates very clearly in its analysis of	Effective Communication
1 presentations	analysis of problems.	in its analysis of problems.	problems.	problems.	Skills
				Clear, complete and correct	
	Poor or no presentation of	•	Adequate presentation of data		Effective Communication
2Use of tables and diagrams	data in tables and diagrams.	in tables and diagrams. The grammar, syntax and	in tables and diagrams.	and diagrams.	Skills
Correction in written	Incorrect grammar, syntax an	dspelling have many	Grammar, syntax and spelling	Grammar, syntax and spelling	Effective Communication
3communication	spelling are predominant.	deficiencies.	are satisfactory.	are correct.	Skills
		The writing and presentation	The writing and presentation	The writing and presentation	
	The writing and presentation	of the analyzes and	of the analyzes and	of the analyzes and	
	of the analyzes and	interventions is somewhat	interventions is adequately	interventions is completely	
Logic, coherence and clarity	of interventions is not articulated	I, articulated, logical, coherent	articulated, logical, coherent	articulated, logical, coherent	Effective Communication
4interventions	logical, coherent and clear.	and clear.	and clear.	and clear.	Skills
		Use PowerPoint and other			
		resources, but minimally, so			
		the presentation is not as	Use PowerPoint and other	Use PowerPoint and other	
	He does not use PowerPoint	effective in helping the	resources appropriately so	resources very effectively so	
Oral and Video	or other resources in his	audience understand the		that the audience understands	
5Communication	presentations on the topic.	topic.	the topic.	the topic.	Skills

Outrain	Danis (4 0)	In	01 (5, 0)	Free Hant (7 0)	Languing Outside
Criterion	Beginning (1 - 2)	In process (3 - 4)	Good (5 - 6) The problem and purpose of the	Excellent (7 - 8)	Learning Outcome
		The problem presented is quite clear	research are clearly stated, but the	Clearly states the problem and purpose	
	The problem presented is neither	r although the justification or theoretical		of the research. He himself is relevant.	
The purpose of the research or	clear nor relevant and the	meaning is not supported. The	•	The justification or its theoretical-	
project and its justification are	justification is not supported by		evidence you present is sometimes not		
6described.	any evidence	cases is not relevant	relevant	evidence.	Research and Creation
		A few applicable concepts and			
	No concept or theory was	theories were discussed but the			
	discussed, nor were variables or	•		s All applicable concepts and theories are	•
Discusses concepts and/or	their conceptual and operational	•		discussed. The variables were defined	
7theories relevant to the research.		discussed.	defined conceptually and operationally.	conceptually and operationally	Research and Creation
The variables or components that	t				
generate or reproduce the		Overations on humathases source			
problem and the relationship(s) between them are clearly		Questions or hypotheses cause confusion and are not related to the	Most of the variables or hypotheses	The variables or hypotheses are stated	
8identified.	Does not identify variables	problem	proposed are related to the problem		Research and Creation
olderitined.	Does not identify variables	problem	proposed are related to the problem	Presents the techniques that	research and Oreation
			Presents techniques that demonstrate	demonstrate a broad mastery of	
	He does not use techniques,	Presents few techniques and	an average mastery of techniques in	techniques in the stages of problem	
	which shows that he has not	demonstrates minimal mastery of	the stages of problem diagnosis,	diagnosis, design and selection of	
Presents the techniques to be	mastered the process of	techniques as part of the diagnosis of	design and selection of alternatives,	alternatives, and implementation	
9used in diagnosing the problem.	diagnosing the problem.	the problem	and implementation programming.	programming.	Research and Creation
The procedure is appropriate to		The procedure is not adequate to	The procedure is appropriate to answer		
answer the research question or	Does not describe or use	answer the research question or solve	•	provides a new way to answer the	
10solve the problem.	appropriate procedures	the problem	problem	research question or solve the problem.	Research and Creation
		10 11 11 11 11		It completely presents the	
The management evaluation		It minimally presents the	It adequately presents the	measurement, evaluation and	
The measurement, evaluation and programming instruments		measurement, evaluation and programming instruments that the	measurement, evaluation and programming instruments that the	programming instruments that the project will require, some innovative for	
that the project will require, their		project will require (questionnaires,	project will require (questionnaires,	the profession (questionnaires,	
purpose and the variables or			e templates, etc.), their purpose, and the		
components that they must	No presentation of instruments	variables or components that they		t variables or components that they must	
11 contain are presented.	required	must contain.	contain.	contain.	Research and Creation
•	•	The data collected and its analysis do		The data collected and its analysis	
Evidence the existence and		not demonstrate the problem and its	adequately demonstrate the problem	clearly show the problem and its	
12magnitude of the problem	There is no evidence with data	magnitude	and its magnitude	magnitude	Research and Creation

Criterion	Beginning (1 - 2)	In process (3 - 4)	Good (5 - 6)	Excellent (7 - 8)	Learning Outcome
Identification of intervention 13areas	It does not establish any connection between research findings and required interventions.	In light of the research findings, minimally required areas of intervention are identified and explained.	In the light of the research findings, the areas of intervention required are identified and explained in a fairly clear and logical manner	In light of the research findings, the areas of intervention required are identified and explained in a .clear and logical manner.	Critical Thinking
Discussion of concepts and 14theories	None of the concepts or theories relevant to the planning problem are discussed.	Concepts and theories are minimally identified and their conceptual and operational definition is not presented.	Almost all the important concepts and theories relevant to the planning problem were discussed.	All concepts and theories relevant to the planning problem are discussed.	Critical Thinking
15Literature review  Development of theory for 16 intervention design	Demonstrates little or no knowledge of current literature. Does not demonstrate creativity in developing theory to design interventions to solve problems.	Uses poorly updated research literature.  Develops minimally creative theory in the design of interventions to solve problems.	It uses fairly up-to-date research literature that promotes continuous learning of professional practices. Develops appropriate creative level theory in the design of interventions to solve problems.	professional practices.	Critical Thinking  Critical Thinking
Relationship between the project or problem and the 17 cited studies	There is no explanation of the connections between the project or problem and the studies cited.  There is no link between	Establishes a minimally clear and complete relationship between the project or problem and the cited studies.  It incompletely shows a tenuous link between	the project or problem and the	Establishes a very clear and a complete relationship between the project or problem and the cited studies.  It shows a clear and explicit link between intervention	
Critical capacity to develop 18 intervention alternatives	intervention alternatives,	intervention alternatives, the diagnosis and a causal theory for solving the problem.	elements of the diagnosis and	alternatives, the diagnosis and a causal theory for solving the problem.	

	· · · · ·	In process (3 - 4)	Good (5 - 6)	Excellent (7 - 8)	Learning Outcome
	not discussed or identified and their conceptual and operational definition is	Very few planning concepts and/or theories are discussed or identified and/or their conceptual and operational definition is not presented.	Quite a few concepts and theories relevant to solving the problem are discussed.	relevant to solving the problem are	Content Knowledge, Skills o Dispositions in the academic program learning outcomes
20Planning theory and methodology	It does not expose the planning theory	It incompletely presents the planning theory and methodology for your project and is confusing in its argumentation and justification.	It adequately presents the planning theory and methodology for your project, although with some deficiencies in its argumentation and justification.	theory and methodology for your	Content Knowledge, Skills o Dispositions in the academic program learning outcomes
	No intervention guidelines or	Develops some intervention guidelines and instruments, in an incomplete manner to generate the expected results to solve or mitigate the diagnosed problems.	diagnosed problems.  The problem is diagnosed quite well and a	Prepares intervention guidelines and instruments, completely to generate the expected results and to solve or mitigate the diagnosed problems.  The problem is diagnosed and a relevant plan (project) is designed, with	<b>.</b>
Diagnosis of the problem and	It doesn't diagnose the problem. The plan or project does not have any of the required elements.		n the objectives are sometimes not clear or do not use real limits or apply social and spatial data information technologies.	clear and achievable objectives, using real limits and applying social and spatial data information technologies. Intensive participation and significant	Content Knowledge, Skills of Dispositions in the academic program learning outcomes Content Knowledge, Skills of
23Teamwork in plan design	No contribution or participation.	Little participation or contributions.	Participation and appropriate contributions to the plan.		Dispositions in the academi program learning outcomes
Economic, social and cultural viability of the plan under various 24scenarios.	No description is presented.	An incomplete overview of each intervention, its components, and general implications under various scenarios is presented.	components and general implications under various scenarios is presented.	intervention, its components, and general implications under various	Content Knowledge, Skills of Dispositions in the academic program learning outcomes
and order the intervention	A list of criteria is not established nor are	An incomplete list of evaluation criteria used and the weight of each criterion is established; They are not ordered according to their compliance with the project objectives.	An adequate list of evaluation criteria used is established without specifying the weight of	criteria used and the weight of each criterion is established to quantify the merit of the intervention alternatives and order them according to their	Content Knowledge, Skills of Dispositions in the academic program learning outcomes Content Knowledge, Skills of Content Knowledge,
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Activities, tasks and resources required for implementation are presented incompletely.	about tasks and resources required for implementation.	presented, with details on tasks and	Dispositions in the academi program learning outcomes
Requirements for solving the 27problem	requirements and incentives/penalties on which the solution to the problem would rest are not presented. No performance evaluation mechanisms	The regulatory, organizational, financial requirements and incentives/penalties on which the solution to the problem would rest are presented incompletely.  Few performance evaluation mechanisms	•	organizational, financial requirements and incentives/penalties is presented on which the solution to the problem would rest. Sufficient performance evaluation	Dispositions in the academic program learning outcomes Content Knowledge, Skills of
	are specifically identified for the implementation of the project.	are specifically identified for project implementation.	for the implementation of the project are specifically identified.	, ,	Dispositions in the academic program learning outcomes

Criterion	Beginning (1 - 2)	In process (3 - 4)	Good (5 - 6)	Excellent (7 - 8)	Learning Outcome
<u> </u>	Does not present a system needs analysis document.	Presents a generalized document of system needs. It identifies very little of the data to be used. It does not present diagrams or flowcharts.		Presents a detailed document including all the needs of the system. Identifies all the data to be used. Presents all diagrams and flowcharts.	Information Literacy
	It does not demonstrate the creation of the databases.	Partially demonstrates the creation of computer databases. It includes few of the elements to be collected and does not include descriptive information, validation elements and domains.	Partially demonstrates the creation of computer databases. Includes some of the elements to be collected, in a logical structure. Includes little descriptive information, validation elements and domains.		e Information Literacy
	He does not have any control over the equipment to collect	data import and export techniques from mobile devices. Demonstrates little	Demonstrates basic mastery of data import and export techniques from mobile fdevices. Demonstrates basic proficiency in the configuration and operation of programs to collect data in the field. It collects some of the data and processes it	export techniques from mobile devices and the	
	data in the field.	collect data in the field.	appropriately.	processes it appropriately.	Information Literacy

Criterion	Beginning (1 - 2)	In process (3 - 4)	Good (5 - 6)	Excellent (7 - 8)	Learning Outcome
Protection of human beings in 32research	It does not comply with the standards for the protection of human beings in research.	It complies with few standards for the protection of human beings in research.	It complies with almost all regulations for the protection of human beings in research.	Complies with all regulations of for the protection of human beings in research.	Social Responsibility
Evidence effects of the 33problem	The data collected and its analysis do not identify the effects of the problem on the affected populations.	The data collected and its analysis do little to identify the effects of the problem on the affected populations.	The data collected and its analysis clearly show the effects of the problem on the affected populations.	The data collected and its analysis clearly show the effects of the problem on the affected populations.	Social Responsibility
34Planning approach	Central focus of their plans does not include vulnerable populations.	Central focus of their plans gives little importance to vulnerable populations.	Central focus of their plans gives adequate importance to vulnerable populations.	Central focus of its plans places great importance on vulnerable populations.	Social Responsibility
35Commitment to plans	Central focus of their plans does not include commitment to equitable, environmental and cultural solutions.	Central focus of their plans contains low level of commitment to equitable, environmental and cultural solutions.	Central focus of their plans contains adequate level of commitment to equitable, environmental and cultural solutions.	The central focus of its plans contains a high level of commitment to equitable, environmental and cultural solutions.	Social Responsibility
36Civic and community projects	No collaboration with civic and community projects.	Very little collaboration with civic and community projects.	He periodically collaborates with civic and community projects.	He very frequently collaborates with civic and community projects.	Social Responsibility
Professional practice and 37ethical standards	Their professional practice does not comply with the ethical standards of professional associations (AICP and SPP).	His professional practice minimally complies with the ethical standards of professional associations (AICP and SPP).	His professional practice adequately complies with the ethical standards of professional associations (AICP and SPP).	His professional practice fully complies with the ethical standards of professional associations (AICP and SPP).	Social Responsibility

## **Learning Assessment Plan**

Domain	Course Code	Course Title	Learning Objectives
Information Literacy	PLAN6602†‡ PLAN6603‡ PLAN6996†‡	GIS for Planners Fundamentals of Plan Making Practicum	<ul><li>A. Design databases to collect field data.</li><li>B. Diagnose planning problems, their magnitude, and causal</li></ul>
			factors.  C. Apply data validation and consistency methods.
Effective Communication Skills	PLAN6603‡ PLAN6996†‡	Fundamentals of Plan Making Practicum	A. Write research reports.  B. Write plans.
			C. Make oral and graphic presentations.
Content Knowledge, Skills, or Dispositions	PLAN6076† PLAN6077† PLAN6603‡	Planning History and Theory Introduction to the Planning Profession: The Implementation Dilemma Fundamentals of Plan Making	A. Analyze and compare theories.
	PLAN6996†‡	Practicum	B. Design plans as a team or through collaborative work.
Research and Creation	PLAN6603‡	Fundamentals of Plan Making	A. Correctly apply research methods and processes.
			B. Diagnose problems coherently and with foundation.
Critical Thinking	PLAN6603‡ PLAN6996†‡	Fundamentals of Plan Making Practicum	A. Analyze theories.
			B. Interpret the history of planning.
			C. Design plans that include appropriate solutions.
Social Responsibility	PLAN6077† PLAN6603‡	Introduction to the Planning Profession: The Implementation Dilemma Fundamentals of Plan Making	A. Apply the professional planner's code of ethics.
	PLAN6996†‡	Practicum	B. Analyze social problems and human needs.
			C. Demonstrate civic and community commitment.



# Three –Year Learning Assessment Cycle Results

1st Year: 2020-2021

2<sup>nd</sup> Year: 2021-2022

3<sup>rd</sup> Year: 2022-2023

**Exiting Students** 

#### 1st Year: 2020-2021

	First Measurement	Second Measurent
Domain	% Meeting Criteria	% Meeting Criteria
Information Literacy	42.2%	44.9%
	N=45	N=49
Effective Communication Skills	75.6%	72.1%
	N=45	N=61
Content Knowledge, Skills, or Dispositions	15.6%	40.8%
	N=45	N=49
Research and Creation	73.3%	56.8%
	N=45	N=44
Critical Thinking	71.1%	59.2%
<b>U</b>	N=45	N=49
Social Responsibility	13.3%	22.5%
,	N=45	N=40

#### 2nd Year: 2021-2022

Domain	First Measurement % Meeting Criteria	Second Measurement % Meeting Criteria
Information Literacy	69.6% N=23	27.3% N=22
Effective communication skills	91.3% N=23	84.4% N=32
Content Knowledge, Skills, or Dispositions	91.3% N=23	75.0% N=4
Research and creation	91.3% N=23	54.5% N=22
Critical Thinking	91.3% N=23	75.0% N=4
Social Responsibility	91.3% N=23	86.4% N=22

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Year: 2022-2023

Domain	First Measurement % Meeting Criteria	Second Measurement % Meeting Criteria
Information Literacy	56.3% N=16	100% N=37
Effective Communication Skills	52.9% N=17	97.3% N=37
Content Knowledge, Skills, or Dispositions	100% N=6	100% N=37
Research and Creation	100% N=6	96.8% N=31
Critical Thinking	100% N=6	100% N=38
Social Responsibility	100% N=6	100% N=31

## **Exiting Students: 2023 Graduation Dates**

Domain	Last Measurement (N=8)
Information Literacy	100%
Effective Communication Skills	100%
Content Knowledge, Skills, or Dispositions	100%
Research and Creation	100%
Critical Thinking	100%
Social Responsibility	100%

#### **Assessment Findings**

- During the 2022-2023 academic year, at incoming students were entering the program with challenges in the competence areas of effective communication skills and information literacy.
- Only 52.9% and 56.3% of students were meeting the criteria, respectively, which fell below the goal.
- All other first measurements reached 100%, which is well within the established goal for each criterion.
- This signaled to a communications deficiency that could be associated potentially with the effects of pandemic-related social isolation and limited (or lack thereof) of socialization during that period.
- The second measurement, however, showed significant improvement in both information literacy and communication skills, having them reach 100% and 97.3%, respectively.
- Research and creation had a small decrease from 100% of students meeting the criteria to 96.8% of them attaining the goal which is still within the standard.
- One hundred percent of students met the remaining criteria as well.
- Results suggest that the program is successful in developing in students the knowledge, skill and values profile that is desired for our alumni/ae to enter the labor market.



#### **Job Market Readiness**

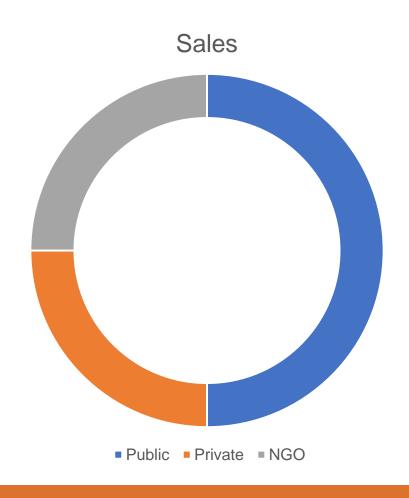
Employer Perspective: Focus Groups Findings Areas of Opportunity for Curricular Revision



#### **Labor Market Readiness**



# **Employer Perspective: Focus Group Participant Profile**



 Gather employer perceptions on alumni/ae level of professional performance

 Identify potential changes in the curriculum to address job market needs

# **Employer Perspective: Focus Group Participant Findings**

#### **Positive Factors**

- Best practice analysis
- Current knowledge of theory
- Methodological design and implementation
- Document and policy evaluation
- Ability to work individually and collaboratively
- Sensibility to community and cultural issues / ability to listen
- Collaboration / co-creation approach
- GIS / Spatial analysis
- Adaptability and resourcefulness
- Leadership
- Basic policy / planning regulatory framework knowledge

#### **Challenges**

- Mediation / facilitation in community meetings
- Incorporating social media into participation strategies
- The business side (proposal writing, invoicing, etc.)
- Communicating work (written, visualization)
- The political aspect (process, making change happen)
- Grant writing and management
- More advanced policy / planning regulatory framework

#### **Areas of Opportunity for Curricular Revision**



Creating a
Communication
module in a core
course or
Communication
course

Written Language
Visualization
Histronic Skills / Body
Language /
Performance
Social Media



Incorporating meeting facilitation component in core course



Including business aspects into PLAN6077



Strengthening political process discussions in PLAN6077, PLAN6601 and policy courses



Add grant writing and management content to PLAN6077



Deepening policy / planning regulatory framework in PLAN6116

# **Areas of Opportunity for Curricular Revision Process**





#### **Transformative Action Plan**

Curricular Revision Process
Learning Assessment Process

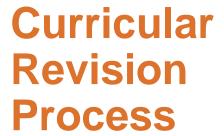




Creating a Communication module in a core course or Communication course



Incorporating meeting facilitation component in core course





Including business aspects into PLAN6077



Strengthening political process discussions in PLAN6077, PLAN6601 and policy courses



Add grant writing and management content to PLAN6077



Deepening policy / planning regulatory framework in PLAN6116

## **Learning Assessment Process**



## Create Rubric for Each Course with Specific Relevant Indicators

Reduce Confusion
Improve Response
Facilitate Results Reporting



## **Standardize Timing of Measure**

Pre-test / Post-test
Facilitate Progress Monitoring



#### Increase Minimum Threshold

70%+

