

**Texas A&M International University  
Annual Institutional Effectiveness Review (AIER)  
for Academic Programs**

**Program:** Masters in Public Administration

**Assessment Period Covered:** January 1, 2009 to January 31, 2010

**Program Coordinator (Preparer of Report):** WW Riggs

**List Other Program Faculty:**

Peter Haruna Mehnaaz Momen Lynne Manganaro Mohamed Ben –Ruwin Jim Norris Christopher Lawrence
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**Reviewed by Chair:** Mohamed Ben-Ruwin \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reviewed by Dean:** Tom Mitchell \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**The Annual Institutional Effectiveness Review for Academic Programs is directed at Goal 1:  
Academics of the Texas A&M International University 2006-2010 Strategic Plan:**

Develop, maintain, assess, and improve academic programs, administrative/educational support services and student services, to admit, retain, and graduate students who achieve established learning outcomes designed to prepare them for success in their chosen careers.

**Institutional Mission**

Texas A&M International University, a Member of The Texas A&M University System, prepares students for leadership roles in their chosen profession in an increasingly complex, culturally diverse state, national, and global society ... Through instruction, faculty and student research, and public service, Texas A&M International University embodies a strategic point of delivery for well-defined programs and services that improve the quality of life for citizens of the border region, the State of Texas, and national and international communities.

**Academic Program Mission**

The MPA program at TAMIU is carefully designed to provide professional education for those individuals who seek to lead and manage public, private or non-profit sector organizations serving the public interest. The program offers a professional degree in the field that is intended to provide a myriad of employment opportunities for talented and capable students. The program's goal is to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary for them to play a vital role in the economic, political, and social development of the border region first and foremost, but also for the state and the nation.

**Provide summary of the last cycle's use of results and changes implemented**

During the last cycle, our assessment results indicated a disturbing pattern in the comprehensive exam. Students who attempt to take the exam while taking a core course depict a higher rate of failing the exam. We implemented a policy change regarding the comprehensive exam. Students have to finish successfully all core courses before they take their comprehensive exam. With only two testing periods, it is too early to assess the effects of this policy change. Elimination of "tracks" has been replaced with students taking 5000 level electives of their choice. Our program review of 2008 resulted in identifying a need for a second methodology course. The course is planned to be implemented in Spring 2010. Also as a result of our program review, the Health track has been removed but will become a certification program managed by BINC and no longer a part of the MPA program. An administrative change was institutionalized to identify an MPA Director as part of our accreditation strategy. The Dean of COAS has established an annual budget for the program and the MPA Director will serve on a 10 1/2 month contract. MPA program will receive an annual budget of \$5000.00 Dr. Riggs is now serving as MPA director.

**Selected list of program-level intended student learning outcomes:**

1. Students completing the MPA program should demonstrate the ability to apply research and statistical methods/techniques/tools in solving public problems.
2. Graduating MPA students will demonstrate theoretical knowledge and understanding of how to administer publicly defined programs in a democracy.
3. Graduating MPA students will have acquired the skills, tools, and critical thinking abilities needed by public agencies in a continually changing environment.

Section I: Planning and Implementation

**Outcome(s)**

Students completing the MPA program should demonstrate the ability to apply research and statistical methods/techniques/tools in solving public problems

**Please indicate if the outcome(s) is (are) related to writing (QEP).**

**Methods of assessment to be used:**

Graduating MPA candidates will take a locally-generated comprehensive exam that assesses their ability to appropriately apply research and statistical methods toward solving practical public problems. The comprehensive exam will be prepared and team-graded by all MPA faculty.

**Indicate when assessment(s) will take place:**

Comprehensive exams are given each fall and spring.

**Criteria/Benchmark(s):**

At least 80 percent of the MPA candidates will score 80 percent or more in the research and statistical methods question of the comprehensive exam. The current method of grading the comprehensive exam requires modification to accomplish this. The MPA faculty will meet to decide upon the proper rubric.

Section II: Analysis of Results

**What were the results attained?** *Describe the primary results or findings from your analysis of the information collected. This section should include an explanation of any strength(s) or weakness(es) of the program suggested by the results.*

One student took the comprehensive exam in the spring semester. The student passed. The success rate is 100%.

**What were the conclusions reached?**  
*Should include a brief description of the procedure used for reaching the conclusion(s) based on the evidence collected and describe the process used to disseminate the information to other individuals. For example, if the discussion took place during the annual spring retreat, include a summary from those deliberations using the Meeting Minutes template found on the Project Integrate web page at <http://www.tamtu.edu/integrate/docs/Minutes-Template.doc>. Once completed, submit the minutes to [assessment@tamtu.edu](mailto:assessment@tamtu.edu).*

There is no need to make changes to the program at this time.

**Describe the action plan formulated. (The plan may be multi-year in nature.)**  
*Based on the conclusion(s), describe the action plan to be implemented to improve or maintain student learning, including a timeline for implementation.*

There is a faculty meeting to review outcomes that will take place at the end of the spring semester.

Section III: Resources

**Resource(s) to implement action plan:** *Describe the resources that will be needed to implement the action plan. Also indicate if the resources are currently available, or if additional funds will be needed to obtain these resources.*

**Funding**

- New Resources Required
- Reallocation of current funds

Physical

- New or reallocated space

Other

- Primarily faculty/staff time
- University/rule procedure change only

**Provide a narrative description and justification for requested resources (include linkage to Strategic Plan)**

Accreditation standards require an additional faculty line and the addition of a Staff Assistant.

**Identify proposed outcomes for the next assessment cycle:**

Continuation of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for continuation):

The current outcome is the most effective way of assessing this program at the current time.

New Outcome(s) – (List outcomes below):

**Enter text here**

Modification of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for modification):

**Enter text here**

Date Completed: 4/15/2010

Submit completed form to [integrate@tamiu.edu](mailto:integrate@tamiu.edu).

Updated 09/03/2009