



**Final Annual Report**

**Tennessee Tech University**

**President**

**Provost**

**College of Interdisciplinary Studies**

**School of Professional Studies**

**Professional Studies RODP BS**



**Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies (TNeCampus)**

**Department/Unit Contact:** Joe Roberts

**Mission/Vision/Goal Statement**

The Professional Studies Program is committed to serving and providing traditional and non-traditional students with an intellectually engaging and effective undergraduate and graduate educational experience utilizing technology through on-ground, hybrid, and online delivery systems as they enhance their knowledge, analytical abilities, critical thinking, and communication skills for upward mobility in their professional field.

This undergraduate degree consists of 120 hours of interdisciplinary course work and is available in four concentrations:

**Health Administration** prepares students interested in entering the health care field in an administrative capacity planning, coordinating, and supervising the processes of medical facilities/offices.

**Information Technology** is designed to prepare managers and non-managers to use information for decision-making as well as improve proficiency in software, operating systems, and management of networking systems.

**International Organizational Leadership** prepares students to lead in a global economy spanning differing management styles, business practices, and cultural awareness.

**Organizational Leadership** develops a student's foundation of leadership skills through a variety of communication outlets, critical thinking and problem solving situations applicable in real-world businesses and organizations.

 **Program Goal 1 - Critical Thinking****Define Goal**

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to engage in critical thinking skills and leadership development.

**Intended Outcomes / Objectives**

Professional Studies majors will develop critical thinking skills, as measurable through the Senior Exit Exam.

---

 **Program Goal 2 - Integrated Learning****Define Goal**

Integrate knowledge from the program of study to make application to real world situations and communicate research results with a focus from one of the Professional Studies four concentrations.

**Intended Outcomes / Objectives**

Students will successfully demonstrate the synthesis of knowledge from their program of study with a focus from their concentration area in a Capstone Project during their senior year.

---

 **Program Goal 3 - Professional Research Project****Define Goal**

Identify and develop a research project from the perspective of the students' concentration area that addresses a real world problem and effectively communicate findings.

**Intended Outcomes / Objectives**

Each student will successfully complete a research project from their concentration area that is acceptable, correctly utilizing appropriate academic sources.

---

 **Program Goal 4 - Technology Service to Students****Define Goal**



The School of Professional Studies BPS Program implemented two initiatives in the context of the Flight Plan's Technology Service to Students (focus area two).

**Intended Outcomes / Objectives**

1. Website update for the three new MPS degree programs: Healthcare Administration, Public Safety and TESOL.
  
2. Website update with staff, faculty, and associated faculty for SoPS.



**Assessment - Senior Capstone Project Rubric**

**Goal/ Outcome/ Objective:** Integration of knowledge from the program of study.

**Type of Tool:** Rubric

**Rationale**

The BPS Professional Capstone Project will be assessed on the basis of a rubric. (See attached file)

The Senior Capstone course is required of all Professional Studies majors. Each student must complete either a 6000 word research paper or a real-world project that demonstrates a synthesis of knowledge from their program of study from their concentration area.

Faculty members complete the rubric on each student that completes the course, entering a score based on the rubric. The scores are combined to get an overall score for each semester's cohort of students.

Data from the rubric is used to assess overall preparedness for the senior project, and student development in research question development, analysis, integration and synthesis of concentration areas, documentation, and critical thinking. Data is also used in program evaluation to assess areas of needed improvement. A score of 2.5 is adequate, 3.0 is considered acceptable, 3.5 advanced, and 4.0 stellar.

Results are distributed to the Dean of the College and the Director of Professional Studies.



\*.doc

**Frequency of Assessment:** Each semester



### Assessment - Senior Exit Exam

**Goal/ Outcome/ Objective:** Demonstrate critical thinking skills

**Type of Tool:** Exit Exam

#### Rationale

The Senior Exit Exam is administered to every student who graduates from TTU, with the exception of non-traditional students. This assessment evaluates students in the area of critical thinking. Scores are aggregated by major and reported annually. The California Critical Thinking Test is a well-tested measure of critical thinking, and is accepted by the University as a whole. (It must be noted that the exception of Non-traditional student scores is a university policy and not one of the SOPS. The exemption leads to the exclusion of many of our majors from the data. Its our goal to work toward the inclusion of all SOPS students.)

The School of Professional Studies uses the Senior Exit Exam to evaluate majors in Critical Thinking. The goal is to have an increasing score in the Exam annually, and to meet or exceed the university average score.

Results are distributed to the Dean of the College and discussed among faculty and School Directors.

**Frequency of Assessment:** Each semester



### Results - Senior Exit Exam - 2016-2017

**Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:** Critical Thinking

#### Results

The Senior Exit Exam (California Critical Thinking Test) is administered to every student who graduates from TTU, with the exception of non-traditional students. This assessment evaluates students in the area of critical thinking. Scores are



aggregated by major and reported annually. The California Critical Thinking Test is a well-tested measure of critical thinking, and is accepted by the University as a whole. (It must be noted that the exception of Non-traditional student scores is a university policy and not one of the SOPS. The exemption leads to the exclusion of over 40% of our majors from the data. It is our goal to work toward the inclusion of all SOPS students.)

In 2017 data became available for individual majors, rather than just colleges. The School of Professional Studies uses the Senior Exit Exam to evaluate majors in Critical Thinking. The goal is to have an increasing score in the Exam annually, and to meet or exceed the university average score. In 2016-17 the School of Professional Studies average score exceeded 2015-2016, and exceeded the TTU University average.

	2015-2016	2016-2017
LIST	15.2N=59	17.0 N=60
TTU AVG	16.9N=1485	N/A
National Average	17.1	16.2

### Attachments

No items to display.



### Results Senior Capstone Rubric 2016-17

**Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:** Goal 1 Critical Thinking; Goal 2 Integrated Learning; Goal 3 Professional Research Project

### Results

Faculty members complete the rubric on each student that completes the course, entering a score based on the rubric. The scores are combined to get an overall score for each semester's cohort of students.

Data from the rubric is used to assess overall preparedness for the senior project, and student development in research question development, analysis, integration and synthesis of concentration areas, documentation, and critical thinking. Data is also used in program evaluation to assess areas of needed improvement. A score of 2.5 is adequate, 3.0 is considered acceptable, 3.5 advanced, and 4.0 stellar.



Spring 2017

	Thesis/Problem Question	Information Seeking Selecting and Evaluating	Analysis	Synthesis	Documentation	Product Process	Critical thinking
Spring 2016	3.59	3.39	3.43	3.41	3.39	3.27	3.15
Spring 2017	3.65	3.43	3.25	3.51	3.20	3.24	3.29

### Attachments

No items to display.