

Professional Studies BS: 2019-2020

Definition of Unit

Providing Department:

Professional Studies BS

Department/Unit Contact:

Dr. Joe Roberts

Mission/Vision Statement:

The Professional Studies Program is committed to serving and providing traditional and non-traditional students with an intellectually engaging and effective undergraduate, 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.

Goal 1 - Critical Thinking

Define Goal:

Professional Studies majors will develop thinking skills and knowledge necessary to engage in critical thinking.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

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

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Assessment: Goal 1 - Critical Thinking

Frequency of Assessment:

Annually

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. It's 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 meet or exceed the university average score.

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

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Results: Goal 1- Senior Exit Exam

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.)

Senior Exit Exam										
	2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020	
COLLEGE	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*
Agriculture & Human Sciences	16.8	111	17.1	158	15	92	13.9/72	143	14.4/73	75
Arts & Sciences	17.5	304	16.2	403	17.5	228	18.3/78	225	16.9/76	113
Business	19.9	137	18.7	308	20	236	15.1/73	238	15.2/74	142
Education	16.3	300	16.8	337	15.4	248	14.7/73	232	13.7/72	176
Engineering	16	319	16	383	20.6	351	20.3/81	359	18.6/78	205
Interdisciplinary Studies	17.5	26	17	70	15.8	54	14.7/73	96	14.3/72	61
Nursing**	15.8	52	20.1	106	17.1	105	16.6/75	92	17.2/77	52
TTU Average	16.9	1485	17	1767	17.6	1314	16.8/76	1515	16.1/75	1365
CCTST National Average	~17.1		~16.2		~16.2		~15.42/74		~15.4/74	

Attachments:

Goal 2 - Integrated Learning

Define Goal:

Professional Studies majors will successfully demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge from their program of study to real world situations.

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 Culminating Project during their senior year.

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Assessment: Goal 2 - Integrated Learning

Frequency of Assessment:

Each Semester

Rationale:

1. Student Success Rates

Although not the only measure, one measure of student learning outcomes is student success rate in courses.

2. BPS Professional Culminating Project

The Senior Culminating Project or 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.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Results: Goal 2 - Integrated Learning

Results:

Student success in these courses indicates that, at least from this measure, students are meeting the outcomes established for the professional core. The lower success rates for the Statistical Methods (76%) and International Context (72%) areas should be looked at to determine how to increase student success in meeting these two professional core student learning outcomes.

Student Success for Professional Core Courses (Fall 2015-Summer 2019)

Professional Core Area	Course	Success Rate (%)
Administration and Supervision	BMGT 3610 - Principles of Management	97
Organizational Systems	PM 4120 - Organizational Theory & Behavior	88
Team & Organizational Relationships	COMM 3010 - Integrated Corporate Communication	87
Statistical Methods	SOCI 4510 - Introduction to Social Research	76
Written Communications	ENGL 3134 - Computers, Writing & Literature	86
	ENGL 3250 - Professional Communication	89
International Context	SPAN 3550 - Latin America: The Countries and the Peoples	72

Note: Table 2 includes only the most frequently chosen professional core courses. The success rate shown is based on completion of the course with a grade of A, B, or C. For the purposes of this study, students that receive a grade of D or F, or withdraw from the course, have been deemed to have not successfully completed the course.

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.

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Senior Capstone Rubric Scores

Area	Thesis/Problem Question	Information Seeking Selecting and Evaluating	Analysis	Synthesis	Documentation	Product Process	Critical thinking
Spring 20							
Fall 2019							
Spring2019	3.65	3.24	3.28	3.40	3.18	3.11	3.56
Fall 2018	3.60	3.58	3.39	3.48	3.33	3.38	3.44
Spring2018	3.48	3.48	3.39	3.46	3.33	3.33	3.46
Fall 2017	3.61	3.56	3.33	3.37	3.51	3.18	3.37
Spring2017	3.66	3.51	3.35	3.51	3.27	3.32	3.51
Fall 2016	Data Not Available	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spring2016	3.59	3.39	3.43	3.41	3.39	3.27	3.15
Fall 2015	3.59	3.43	3.32	3.38	3.26	3.15	3.26

Attachments:

Goal 3 - Professional Research Project

Define Goal:

Professional Studies majors will be able to identify and develop a research project from the perspective of the students' concentration area that addresses a real world problem and effectively communicates findings.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

Professional Studies majors will demonstrate real-world problem solving and communication by identifying and developing a research project in his/her concentration area.

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Assessment: Goal 3 - Professional Research Project

Frequency of Assessment:

Each semester

Rationale:

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

The Senior Culminating Project or 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.

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Results: Goal 3 - Professional Research Project

Results:

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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.

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Attachments:

Copy of 4995 Rubric Report Form.xlsx