

Assessment Rubric for Senior Thesis in Public Policy

Learning Goals, Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), and Assessment

Student Name: _____
 Reader Name: _____
 Term: _____

Learning Goals

1. Apply tools and concepts from economics, political science, and other relevant disciplines to the analysis of policy issues;
2. Use quantitative and/or qualitative evidence to develop policy recommendations;
3. Communicate complex ideas clearly and persuasively.

Learning Outcomes	High Pass 4	Pass 3	Low Pass 2	Fail 1	N/A	Score
Public policy process	Demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the public policy process	Demonstrates an adequate understanding of the public policy process	Demonstrates an incomplete or somewhat flawed understanding of the public policy process	Demonstrates limited understanding of, or pays minimal attention to, the public policy process	Not applicable	
Values and tradeoffs	Demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of tradeoffs among competing values relevant to the policy in question	Demonstrates an adequate understanding of tradeoffs among competing values	Demonstrates an incomplete or somewhat flawed understanding of tradeoffs among competing values	Demonstrates limited understanding of, or pays minimal attention to, tradeoffs among competing values	Not applicable	
Theory	Skillfully applies theories and concepts from relevant literatures to develop and advance arguments	Adequately applies theories and concepts from relevant literatures to develop and advance arguments	Application of theories and concepts from relevant literatures is incomplete or somewhat flawed	Demonstrates limited understanding of, or pays minimal attention to, theories and concepts from relevant literatures	Not applicable	

Learning Outcomes	High Pass 4	Pass 3	Low Pass 2	Fail 1	N/A	Score
Evidence and methodology	Skillfully uses appropriate evidence and sophisticated methodology (qualitative and/or quantitative) to analyze the problem under consideration	Competently uses appropriate evidence and methodology to analyze the problem under consideration	Uses somewhat flawed evidence or simplistic methodology to analyze the problem under consideration	Fails to use appropriate evidence and methodology to analyze the problem under consideration	Not applicable	
Analysis	Draws appropriate, insightful, and carefully qualified inferences and conclusions based on analysis of evidence	Draws appropriate inferences and conclusions based on analysis of evidence	Draws basic or tentative inferences and conclusions based on analysis of evidence	Fails to draw appropriate inferences and conclusions based on analysis of evidence	Not applicable	
Written Communication	Clearly and effectively communicates arguments with virtually no organizational problems or grammatical errors	Adequately communicates arguments with few organizational problems or grammatical errors	Communication of arguments is at times unclear or plagued by organizational problems or grammatical errors	Fails to adequately communicate arguments	Not applicable	