

Mastere of Arts in Administration of Justice SLOA Report
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During the 2011/12 academic year the Justice Department revamped its SLOA plan for the Master of Arts in Administration of Justice. The new SLOA plan emphasizes the objectives of developing strong technical writing skills, the ability to formulate and implement research, and strong oral communication skills, as well as developing expert knowledge regarding the administration of justice agencies. To measure outcomes for writing skills and research skills, the plan utilizes graduate advisory committee review of student projects or theses. To measure outcomes for oral communication skills, the plan uses graduate advisory committee review of project or thesis defenses. In the past committees did not use formal rubrics for evaluating projects, theses and their defenses, but the Department will develop appropriate rubrics for future. As in the past, the comprehensive exam will be used to assess the level of knowledge regarding administration of justice agencies attained by students.

In the summer of 2011 four graduate students took the complete comprehensive exam, and one student took the legal aspects portion of the exam for the third time (the Department allows students to retake failed portions of the comprehensive exams up to two times). All four students taking the full comprehensive exam passed all portions of it. The one student attempting the legal aspects portion of the comprehensive exam also passed. In reviewing the results of the comprehensive exam, the Department is satisfied with expertise students are attaining in the program.

In the summer of 2011 three students presented project defenses, in the fall of 2011 one graduate student defended their project and in the spring of 2012 two students presented project defenses. In all six cases the project defenses were satisfactory, and, in fact the graduate advisory committees were very impressed by all six. The results of the project defenses indicate the program objectives regarding technical writing skills, oral communication skills and research skills are being met.

While no longer a formal part of the M.A. SLOA plan, the Department intends to continue administering its exit survey. The survey had students assess the quality and pertinence of individual courses. The survey administered in the summer of 2011, revealed that student perceptions about elective courses are weaker than about the required courses. In one case, the performance of an adjunct professor instructing an elective course clearly fell below the Department's expectations. The Department anticipates making changes with regard to electives for the program, and the exit survey results will provide some guidance.

David Blurton, Chair
Justice