

Ph.D. in Design, Construction, and Planning Academic Assessment Plan 2012-13

College of Design, Construction, and Planning
Zhong-Ren Peng
zpeng@dcp.ufl.edu

Office of the Provost

*University of
Florida*

*Institutional
Assessment*

*Continuous Quality
Enhancement*

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2012-13 Academic Assessment Plan Ph.D. in Design, Construction, and Planning

College of Design, Construction, and Planning

A. Mission

The mission of the Ph.D. program of the College of Design, Construction and Planning at the University of Florida is to be a leading Ph.D. program with excellence in design, construction and planning education, research, and service in the nation and the world. To pursue this vision, our program mission is to create new knowledge by conducting cutting-edge research and scholarly work; to educate next generations of scholars and professionals with knowledge, skills and ethical behavior to be successful in their future career; and to provide professional and public services to communities in Florida, the nation, and the world.

The Ph.D. program supports the College's mission by "critically assess[ing] ongoing processes of change in human settlements, engag[ing] students in projects intended to guide those processes, and bring new strategies and approaches to bear on work in the profession of architecture, building construction, historic preservation, interior design, landscape architecture and urban and regional planning. Underlying DCP's educational philosophy is a commitment to advance applications of the principles of sustainability in the design, construction, planning and preservation of the built and natural environments." The program advances the University's mission by "offer[ing] broad-based, inclusive public education, leading edge research, and service to the citizens of Florida and the nation. The fusion of these three endeavors stimulates a remarkable intellectual vitality and generates a synthesis that is the university's greatest strength."

B. Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

SLO Type	Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Method	Degree Delivery
Knowledge	1. Each student will apply in-depth knowledge from their individual discipline.	Students completing their individual course work will successfully complete their oral and written qualification examinations. Students completing their individual course work will successfully defend their individual doctoral dissertation "proposal".	Campus
Skills	2. Employ appropriate research methodologies. 3. Analyze data using appropriate quantitative and/or qualitative techniques. 4. Each student will apply the critical thinking skills required of doctoral faculty and researchers within their individual discipline. 5. Communicates effectively both orally and in writing.	Students completing their individual oral and written qualification examinations will successfully defend their doctoral dissertation.	Campus
Professional Behavior	6. Display ethical behaviors, and professional conduct in research.	Students will develop a research agenda that allows them to submit research or pedagogical papers for professional conferences and peer reviewed journals. Students will develop a doctoral program (in conjunction with their doctoral committee) that will provide research and teaching opportunities within their individual discipline while in the college doctoral program.	Campus

C. Research

The Ph.D. program prepares Ph.D. student to conduct research through course work, working with mentors and advisors, and writing proposals and dissertations.

Research related coursework: Every Ph.D. students are required to take two or more research courses: Ph.D. Core course I, Advanced Research Method and one research seminar course, as well as research courses in individual disciplines. These courses cover research inquiry, research design, research methods (i.e., qualitative and quantitative methods), and dissertation and grant proposal writing.

Research work: Every Ph.D. student is assigned a mentor from day 1; many of them work with their mentors as research assistants on faculty research. The faculty advisor guide the students from the outset to conduct cutting-edge research.

Scholarly work: All Ph.D. students are strongly encouraged to at least publish one paper and submit one research proposal, alone or with their mentors/advisors.

The combination of coursework, research and scholarly work prepare our Ph.D. students well for their future research work in either academic or professional career, as expected by the University of Florida's status as an AAU institution.

D. Assessment Timeline

Program Ph.D. in Design, Construction, and Planning College of Design, Construction, and Planning

Assessment SLOs	Assessment 1 With completion of each class.	Assessment 2 With passage of comprehensive exam	Assessment 3 Upon successful defense of the dissertation
Knowledge			
Each student will apply in-depth knowledge from their individual discipline.	X	X	X
Skills			
Employ appropriate research methodologies.		X	X
Analyze data using appropriate quantitative and/or qualitative techniques.			X
Apply the critical thinking skills required of doctoral faculty and researchers within their individual discipline.	X	X	X
Communicate effectively both orally and in writing.		X	
Professional Behavior			
Display ethical behaviors, and professional conduct in research			X

E. Assessment Cycle

Assessment Cycle for:

Program Ph.D. in Design, Construction, and Planning College of Design, Construction, and Planning

Analysis and Interpretation: March – May

Program Modifications: Completed by August 31

Dissemination: Completed by September 30

SLOs	Year	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Knowledge							
Each student will apply in-depth from their individual discipline.		X	X	X	X	X	X
Skills							
Employ appropriate research methodologies.		X	X	X	X	X	X
Analyze data using appropriate quantitative and/or qualitative techniques.		X	X	X	X	X	X
Apply the critical thinking skills required of doctoral faculty and researchers within their individual discipline.		X	X	X	X	X	X
Communicate effectively both orally and in writing.		X	X	X	X	X	X
Professional Behavior							
Display ethical behaviors, and professional conduct in research		X	X	X	X	X	X

F. Measurement Tools

The Doctoral Research Faculty (DRF) who can chair Ph.D. dissertation committees in our Ph.D. program assess student performance in classes, comprehensive exams, dissertation proposals and dissertation defense. The faculty assesses student performance in classes through a variety of internal direct means including exams, papers, presentations, and research papers. All students must pass 4-day comprehensive qualification exams and pass the dissertation proposal defense before they can advance into the candidate status. In addition, the students are judged in the quantity and quality of their scholarly work such as published papers, books or book chapters, and creative design and works (e.g., competition awards). We are in the process of collecting this information from the students. Finally, the student will be assessed in passing the dissertation defense, which is a comprehensive assessment of the student's knowledge, oral, written, and critical thinking skills, as well as research and creative skills.

We are also collecting data to show our Ph.D. graduates' placement in academic jobs and professional jobs. Our goal is to place as many Ph.D. graduates in top universities like AAU institutions as faculty as possible, which is a direct measurement of the quality of our Ph.D. program and our Ph.D. graduates.

G. Assessment Oversight

Name	Department Affiliation	Email Address	Phone Number
Zhong-Ren Peng	DCP	zpeng@ufl.edu	352-392-0997 Ext.429
Margaret H. Carr	DCP	mcarr@ufl.edu	352-392-4836 ext. 308

Figure 1:**Rubric for Use in Oral Qualifying Examinations for the PhD
in Design, Construction and Planning**

Name of candidate: _____

Criteria	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory
Problem Definition: Delineates the area of proposed research.		
Literature: Applies in-depth knowledge of the research area and its literature.		
Prepared for research: Demonstrates capability for independent research in the area of study including facility with appropriate research methodologies.		
Applies critical thinking skills required of their area of study.		
Communicates effectively orally and in writing.		

_____ Passed

_____ Did not pass

Passing is by approval of the supervisory committee and requires at least four of the six criteria are met satisfactorily. The committee is encouraged to recommend ways for the candidate to improve those areas needing attention.

Committee Chair: _____ Signature: _____

Committee Member: _____ Signature: _____

Committee Member: _____ Signature: _____

Committee Member: _____ Signature: _____

Committee Member: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____