

Administrative and Educational Support Report*

Public Administration Program

Annual Action Plan Annual Assessment Report

June 2006 – May 2007

***Student Learning Outcomes for this department are available at
<http://ie.panam.edu/CoSBSLearningOutcomes.htm>**



Annual Action Plan: June 1, 2006–May 31, 2007

Unit: Public Administration Program

UTPA Mission: The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) serves the higher education needs of a rapidly growing, international, multicultural population in the South Texas Region. The University preserves, transmits and creates knowledge to serve the cultural, civic, and economic advancement of the region and the state. The University provides students advanced instruction in academic programs offered through innovative delivery systems that lead to professional certification, and baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees. Through teaching, research, creative activity and public service, UTPA prepares students for lifelong learning and leadership roles in the state, nation and world community.

Division: Academic Affairs **Unit Head:** Dr. Espiridion “Al” Borrego

Unit Mission: The Master of Public Administration is a graduate level of study intended as a professional preparation for public service in governmental agencies at the federal, state, regional, and local levels. Public Administration, both as a scholarly study and a professional program, is interdisciplinary in substance and methodology, borrowing from economics, sociology, psychology, business, industrial engineering, political science, and law.

UTPA Goal: Provide students with a quality educational experience that enables them to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

Academic Affairs Objective: Ensure that graduate programs are academically rigorous and research centered, promoting independent learning and preparing graduates to contribute successfully to their chosen professions.

College/AVP Objective: Provide all students with a quality educational experience.

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Increase academic rigor and create a more research centered program in line with NASPAA accreditation standards. (1)	Completely review and revise the MPA curriculum in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore capstone course • Consider oral <u>and</u> 	Revise the MPA curriculum	A formal curriculum revision will be submitted to the Graduate Council by April 2007.	None

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Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
	comprehensive exams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen statistics/research/evaluation courses Strengthen Internship/applied practical experience to better reflect the linkages between the academic courses and professional work 			

UTPA Goal: Become an outstanding research institution, emphasizing collaborative partnerships and entrepreneurships.

Academic Affairs Objective: Foster intramural and extramural collaborative research partnerships.

College/AVP Objective: Develop intramural and extramural collaborative research partnerships.

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Increase research on public policy issues. (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage faculty-student collaborations. Explore community partnerships with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of research papers presented at regional or national conferences by faculty during AY 2006-2007 will exceed that in AY 2005-2006 An increased number of students will participate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research papers presented at conferences by faculty will increase by 10% in comparison to the previous AY. The number of students attending and 	TBD

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	groups and institutions related to faculty/student research.	in regional or national conferences.	presenting at conferences will increase by 20% in comparison to the previous AY.	
Develop National Hispanic Leadership Models (Cultural Learned Helplessness and Resiliency). (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with faculty in Dept. of Psychology. Involve graduate students. 	Complete the development of the Cultural Learned Helplessness Diagnostic Survey and receive IRB approval of the survey.	IRB approval for the surveys will be received by May 2007.	Work with Dean to identify internal and external funding.
Increase trans-border research. (3)	Work with the Mexican Consulate to identify opportunities for faculty/student research.	Develop a trans-border research project focused on health tourism to Mexico.	Conduct at least 2 focus groups focused on health tourism to Mexico by May 2007.	TBD

UTPA Goal: Enhance UTPA'S engagement with the community to meet challenges and maximize opportunities.

Academic Affairs Objective: Promote engagement with existing organizations to address challenges and opportunities.

College/AVP Objective: Increase community awareness and understanding of the College.

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Maintain MPA Community Advisory Group involvement. (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule a meeting for the advisory group. Work with the Dean to develop an agenda. 	An Advisory Group meeting will be held during AY 2006-2007.	An Advisory Group meeting will be held by May 31, 2007.	TBD

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Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Continue involvement with the Urban County Leadership Conference. (5)	Develop workshops and speakers for the Urban County Leadership Conference.	At least one workshop will be developed, placed on the Leadership Conference agenda, and presented to Conference participants.	At least one workshop will be presented to Conference participants in May 2007.	TBD
Work with local governments to identify appropriate internship opportunities for students. (6)	Meet with local officials to develop internships opportunities.	At least two appropriate internship placements will be negotiated.	At least two appropriate internship placements will be negotiated by May 2007.	TBD



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Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Increase academic rigor and create a more research centered program in line with NASPAA accreditation standards.	Revise the MPA curriculum	A formal curriculum revision will be submitted to the Graduate Council by April 2007.	Working with Senior Vice Provost Ana Maria Rodriquez to create a model curriculum driven by outcomes assessment.	The completion date has been moved to the end of the Spring Semester 08

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Increase research on public policy issues. (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of research papers presented at regional or national conferences by faculty during AY 2006-2007 will exceed that in AY 2005-2006 An increased number of students will participate in regional or national conferences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research papers presented at conferences by faculty will increase by 10% in comparison to the previous AY. The number of students attending and presenting at conferences will increase by 20% in comparison to the previous AY. 	6 papers were presented and 9 conference panel moderators which more than doubles the research effort of last academic year. Five students were taken to the ASPA National Conference in Washington, D.C. They were too late in the conference process to submit papers but they know the process.	The emphasis on research will continue with the expectation that students submit proposals for presenting papers for the next ASPA National Conference held in Dallas, Texas as well as any other appropriate conference.
Develop National Hispanic Leadership Models (Cultural Learned Helplessness and Resiliency). (3)	Complete the development of the Cultural Learned Helplessness Diagnostic Survey and receive IRB approval of the survey.	IRB approval for the surveys will be received by May 2007.	IRB approval has been obtained and the diagnostic instruments have been administered. The data is being entered and data analysis will begin during the summer of 07.	The results of the data analysis (descriptive and factor analysis) will be used to refine the instruments and to determine clusters of variables.
Increase trans-border research. (4)	Develop a trans-border research project focused on health tourism to	Conduct at least 2 focus groups focused on health tourism to Mexico by May	Two focus groups were conducted and the results were presented at the	The data will be used to develop surveys and research will continue on

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	Mexico.	2007.	ASPA National Conference in Washington, DC, April 07	the Insurance plans that will pay for American use of Mexican health facilities

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Maintain MPA Community Advisory Group involvement. (5)	An Advisory Group meeting will be held during AY 2006-2007.	An Advisory Group meeting will be held by May 31, 2007.	The meeting with the Advisory Group has been postponed until the appropriate point to get their input on the curriculum revision.	A meeting will planned for AY 07-08
Continue involvement with the Urban County Leadership Conference. (6)	At least one workshop will be developed, placed on the Leadership Conference agenda, and presented to Conference participants.	At least one workshop will be presented to Conference participants in May 2007.	A workshop on: "The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly of Grant Writing" was presented Memorial Day weekend 2007 at the Urban County Leadership Conference.	We will propose conducting a workshop on: "The Open Meetings and Public Records Act" for the Urban County Leadership Conference, May -08
Work with local governments to identify appropriate internship opportunities for students.	At least two appropriate internship placements will be negotiated.	At least two appropriate internship placements will be negotiated by May 2007.	We are developing an Affiliation Agreement and Program Agreement with The County of Hidalgo.	As soon as the agreements are signed by both parties, meetings between Hidalgo County and the University

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(7)			The agreements are in draft form and being reviewed by the University and Hidalgo County.	will be scheduled to plan the specific opportunities.