Assessment and Action Plan—Academic Degree Programs

School/College: Maxwell/Arts & Sciences

Academic Degree Program Title: International Relations

Degree Awarded: Master of Arts

Web Address: http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/paia.aspx?id=6442451202

Description of Academic Degree Program: The multidisciplinary International Relations (IR) Program links the Maxwell School's long-standing interest in contemporary world problems with scholarly approaches to solving them. The M.A. program combines an academic experience with professional training aimed at preparing students for positions in the public and private sectors in both the domestic and international arena.

PHASE 1			PHASE 2		PHASE 3	
Student Learning Outcomes What are students expected to be able to do as a result of the program?	**Measures** What direct and indirect assessment measures will be used?	**Criteria** How will competency be determined?	**Results** What was learned in the assessment process?	**Interpretation** What do results mean to the program?	**Action** Based on the results and interpretation from Phase 2, what action will be taken?	**Follow-Up** How will you determine if the change made a difference?
#1 Students will be able to apply international relations theories to: • Explain changing international events; • Develop policy choices to address international problems.	**Direct:** • Internship Policy Memo; • PAI 710 – International Actors and Issues Policy development assignment and Policy Briefing; **Indirect:** • Final grade in PAI 710; • MAIR student exit survey.	• Passing grade on assignments and in courses; • Satisfactory evaluation by internship supervisor. • Successful post-graduation career placements.				
#2 Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to effectively use International Relations research through: • Recognizing proper social science research	**Direct:** • PAI 705 Research Summary and Critique; • PAI 705 Final Project; • Internship Policy Memo **Indirect**: • Final grade in PAI 705;	• Passing grade on assignments and in courses; • Satisfactory evaluation by internship supervisor. • Successful completion of				

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methods; • Evaluate policies based on international affairs research.	• MAIR student exit survey.	MAIR program.				
#3 Analyze core macro- and micro-economic principles and analyze their impact on international economic policy.	**Direct** • PAI 720/PAI 723 problem set assignments; • PAI 720/PAI 723 final exam. **Indirect** • Final course grades in PAI 720/PAI 723; • MAIR student exit survey.	• Passing grade on assignments and in courses; • Number of students enrolled in advanced Economics coursework.				
#4 Demonstrate professional management and leadership skills relevant to actors in the international arena.	**Direct** • PAI 710 policy simulation assessment; • PAI 706 IR capstone simulation assessment; • PAI 762 ASF Theory of change memorandum and Problem Analysis; • Internship Policy Memo and organizational analysis; **Indirect** • Evaluation by internship supervisor; • Final course grades in PAI 762; • MAIR student exit survey.	• Passing grade on assignments and in courses; • Satisfactory evaluation by internship supervisor; • Successful post-graduation career placements.				
#5 Apply statistical analysis to identify policy challenges and assess responses.	**Direct** • PAI 721 problem sets and data analysis project;	• Passing grade on assignments and in courses;				

	• PAI 705 research summary and critique; • PAI 705 final research project; **Indirect** • Final course grades in PAI 721 and PAI 705; • MAIR student exit survey.					
#6 Analyze international relations challenges from an interdisciplinary perspective.	**Direct**: • Signature course-specific assignments, including leading class discussion in PAI 716, PAI 707 or final research papers in PSC 783, GEO 606, or HST 645. **Indirect**: • Final grade in MAIR signature track course; • Evaluation by internship supervisor; • MAIR student exit survey.	• Passing grade on assignments and in courses; • Satisfactory evaluation by internship supervisor.				

Recommendations for improving the degree program assessment processes:
We've determined the need to develop a more formalized way to assess the MAIR degree in line with what is expected by the NASPAA accrediting body for the MPA degree. This includes formalizing an entry and exit survey for the MAIR degree and creating a space to evaluate this information on an annual basis.

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