

# SIUC Assessment Plan

IBHE requires a review of non-accredited programs every eight years. These programs are required to submit an Assessment Plan mid-cycle and a Self-Study Report every eight years. Programs are also required to submit an Assessment Reports annually. Submit documents to [apap@siu.edu](mailto:apap@siu.edu). For further information, see the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs website (<http://pvcaa.siu.edu/associate-academic-programs>) or call 453-7653.

Degree Program: Public Safety Management M.S.	CIP Code: 43.0202
Department/School: Justice and Public Safety	College: Liberal Arts
Chair/Director: Matthew Giblin	Email/Phone: <a href="mailto:mgiblin@siu.edu">mgiblin@siu.edu</a> /453-6360
Assessment Coordinator: Matthew Giblin	Email/Phone: <a href="mailto:mgiblin@siu.edu">mgiblin@siu.edu</a> /453-6360
Dean: Andrew Balkansky	Date Submitted: 11/15/19
<b>Mission Statement (Mission of the Program, Department/School or College)</b>	
<p>The mission of the Master of Science in Public Safety and Homeland Security Administration program is to prepare line-level emergency services personnel (e.g., firefighters, emergency management officials, and other first-responders) for leadership roles in emergency service agencies by developing and augmenting the skills critical for success in the field.</p>	
<b>Program Goals</b>	
<p>The professional role of an emergency services official involves a broad spectrum of responsibilities including, among other duties, fire suppression, emergency medical services, public education, emergency management, and prevention. Leadership roles in the field emphasize operational decision-making abilities, fiscal management, community involvement, employee relations, and emergency response and coordination.</p> <p>The program is designed to provide students with the skills and abilities to successfully assume leadership roles. This is accomplished through a rigorous curriculum where instruction emphasizes theory, research, and practical exercises. Specifically, the program goals are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop and expand the graduate’s body of knowledge of the public safety, fire service, and emergency management disciplines.</li> <li>2. Enhance the student’s critical thinking, problem-solving, and oral and written communication skills needed to diagnose, analyze, and provide solutions to complex public safety, fire service, and emergency management situations.</li> <li>3. Train future executive and managerial leaders in public safety, fire service, and emergency management organizations.</li> <li>4. Provide the necessary credentials for career advancement in public safety, fire service, and emergency management fields.</li> </ol>	
<b>Program Student Learning Outcome (SLOs)</b>	
<p>Student learning objectives (SLO) and measurement procedures.</p> <p><b>SLO1</b></p>	

Explain the legal and ethical context related to the administration of emergency services agencies (related to goals 1, 2, 3, and 4).

*Measurement:* The instructor of record for PSM501 Administrative Law will evaluate the students' knowledge throughout the course of the semester through course assignments.

*Performance Expectations:* Upon completion of the course, 90 percent of MS students will receive a B grade or above. This percentage is based on the presumption that each PSM501 course will have approximately 10 MS students and 9 of 10 students are expected to achieve a B or above.

#### **SLO2**

Demonstrate awareness of the organizational and governmental policy formation process as it relates to the emergency services field (related to goals 1, 2, 3, and 4)

*Measurement:* The instructor of record for PSM503 Public Policy/Ethics in the Fire Service will evaluate the students' knowledge throughout the course of the semester through course assignments.

*Performance Expectations:* Upon completion of the course, 90 percent of MS students will receive a B grade or above. This percentage is based on the presumption that each PSM503 course will have approximately 10 MS students and 9 of 10 students are expected to achieve a B or above.

#### **SLO3**

Demonstrate the skills needed to successfully manage the fiscal resources of an emergency services organization (related to goals 1, 2, 3, and 4).

*Measurement:* The instructor of record for PSM504 Fiscal/Financial Management in the Fire Service will evaluate the students' knowledge throughout the course of the semester through course assignments.

*Performance Expectations:* Upon completion of the course, 90 percent of MS students will receive a B grade or above. This percentage is based on the presumption that each PSM504 course will have approximately 10 MS students and 9 of 10 students are expected to achieve a B or above.

#### **SLO4**

Apply knowledge and exercise autonomy in decision making processes to provide a broad range of solutions to public safety problems (related to goals 1, 2, 3, and 4)

*Measurement:* The instructor of record for PSM512 Practicum Exercise will evaluate the students' knowledge throughout the course of the semester through course assignments.

*Performance Expectations:* Upon completion of the course, 90 percent of MS students will receive a B grade or above. This percentage is based on the presumption that each PSM512 course will have approximately 10 MS students and 9 of 10 students are expected to achieve a B or above.

#### **SLO5**

Exhibit strong problem-solving, research, critical thinking, and written and oral communications skills during critical situations (related to goals 1, 2, 3, and 4)

*Measurement:* During their last semester, MS program students will receive survey where they will be asked to indicate how helpful the MS program was in the development of their problem-solving, research, and communication skills as it relates to critical situations.

*Performance Expectations:* The program will be classified as meeting expectations if 85 percent of students indicate that the PSM MS program was somewhat helpful or very helpful in enhancing their abilities.

### Assessment Tools/Baselines

Map the following:

- Program goals to mission
- SLO to program goals
- Curriculum to SLO

Identify assessment instruments or methods for each SLO listed above and establish a baseline for attainment.

Note: The curriculum below reflects the M.S. program changes effective as of the 2020-2021 academic year. Assessment data will be collected beginning in Spring 2020 following this plan.

**Required Core Courses.** All candidates for the Master of Science in Public Safety and Homeland Security Administration degree are required to complete five core courses (15 credits).

PSM 501 Legal/Administrative Law for Fire, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management

PSM 503 Public Policy/Ethics in the Fire Service

PSM 504 Fiscal/Financial Management in the Fire Service

PSM 509 Strategic Planning in Fire, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management

PSM 512 Practicum Exercise

**Elective Courses.** Students must complete an additional 15 credit hours of graduate (500-level or above) Public Safety Management courses. With the consent of the program coordinator, students may be permitted to satisfy the elective course requirements with graduate courses outside of Public Safety Management and/or with up to six credits of 400-level Public Safety Management credits taken for graduate credit in accordance with graduate school regulations.

**Practicum.** All students must complete a practicum capstone during their final semester in the program where they undertake a major simulation or drill to demonstrate their leadership, planning, and evaluation abilities.

### Action Plan

At a minimum include: 1) Strategies for addressing SLO below baseline; 2) Cycle used for assessment; and 3) Involvement of constituencies.

This is a revised plan. Reports based on this plan will be discussed in meetings with the School of Justice and Public Safety director, PSM program coordinator, and PSM site coordinators. Where applicable, the results will be shared with the advisory board. Adjustments will be made to the program curriculum, if needed.

1. For programs with off-site locations and/or distance education courses, a section describing the assessment of these classes or programs is required.
2. Provide any additional relevant information not explicitly covered above.

### Appendices

- a. Mapping of program goals, student learning outcomes, and curriculum (This is a required component of your assessment plan.)
- b. Assessment Tools and/or Rubrics Used (Blank forms)

### SIUC Mission Statement

SIU embraces a unique tradition of access and opportunity, inclusive excellence, innovation in research and creativity, and outstanding teaching focused on nurturing student success. As a nationally ranked public research university and regional economic catalyst, we create and exchange knowledge to shape future leaders, improve our communities, and transform lives.

### Glossary of Terms:

- Action Plan – Strategies and timelines for using assessment for program improvement. This should include a summary of how faculty are involved in the process.
- Assessment Tools – Methods used to measure student learning outcomes.
- Benchmarks– Established baseline measures which indicate an acceptable level of student achievement.
- Program Goals – The program goals are general or broad statements describing the knowledge, skills or values expected of graduates from the program. In general, these are not measurable, but they can be mapped to the mission statement and the student learning outcomes.
- Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) – Statements that describe measurable knowledge, skill or values students will achieve in their program of study.