

**PUBPL 6563/PADMIN 6563/FCS 6563  
PROGRAM AND POLICY EVALUATION**

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**COURSE OVERVIEW:**

We live in an era where there is an emphasis on public accountability. But, how does one objectively assess the success or failure of a program or policy? This course provides a systematic introduction to program and policy evaluation as a basis for accountability. Emphasis is placed on strategies for impact assessment (including randomized and non-randomized designs), measuring efficiency, examining short-term and long-term consequences, identifying both intended and unintended impacts, and the social, political, and ethical context of evaluation. Students undertake a quantitative evaluation group project as part of the course work.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- To become a critical consumer of evaluation research
- To learn the purposes and techniques of evaluation and assessment
- To apply appropriate research design techniques to “real world” policies and programs
- To learn how to do professional level policy/programmatic research
- To learn how to prepare a professionally written report and deliver clear, concise oral presentations of evaluation-related findings

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

Class meeting time will be a mixture of traditional lecturing, discussion, small group activities, and student presentations. I believe that students “learn best by doing.” Consequently, there are several hands-on assignments in this course where students will have the opportunity to apply the concepts that have been presented in the lectures and readings. I also believe that it is vitally important that individuals working in the area of program and policy evaluation have strong research translation skills. Thus, class assignments will provide students with the opportunity to translate technical quantitative analyses into written and oral reports targeted at lay audiences.

