

Peace and Intercultural Relations Program Assessment

Learning outcomes

The Peace and Intercultural Relations program has fourteen student learning outcomes: (1) construct, frame, and communicate a focused research topic, (2) make a balanced and reasoned argument using a variety of sources appropriate to academic research, (3) integrate multiple viewpoints from various disciplinary perspectives, (4) deeply explore a topic of interest, and acquire deep comprehension of that topic and the issues surrounding it, (5) gain facility with methods, research tools, and the analytical and critical thinking skills necessary to completing a capstone project, (6) engage in collaborative and experiential learning, (7) develop a sophisticated understanding of interdisciplinarity as it relates to the program and capstone project, (8) understand the components required for a research thesis, (9) demonstrate competency in the effective written and oral presentation of research, (10) complete an interdisciplinary capstone project that synthesizes knowledge, theory, and methodology from the program, (11) prepare a well-written project incorporating and representing one's perspective and a crucial analysis of research materials, (12) demonstrate mastery of the citation style most appropriate for the program, (13) present one's research at various stages in class and at the senior project showcase in the department, and (14) incorporate effective visual aids to support the content of one's presentation.

Assessment methods

Recently, the department has been at working on flowsheets and new courses for this program. Two new courses are a mid-level course and a capstone course: IDS 389, "Theories and Methods of Interdisciplinary Studies," and IDS 489, "Senior Capstone in Interdisciplinary Studies." A great deal of work has gone into the development of these two courses, and the capstone is explicitly designed to collect evidence of all the student learning outcomes for this program and should function excellently for program-level assessment.