

Academic Program Assessment - Office of Academic Programs  
Marxe School of Public and International Affairs

**Competency #2:** To participate in and contribute to the policy process.

**Learning Goal B:** Identify alternative policy options; assess their potential feasibility and effectiveness; describe how the policy options are expected to affect outcomes (mechanisms).

Focal Area	Above Standard (3)	Meets Standard (2)	Below Standard (1)	Fails to Meet Standard (0)
<i>Identify economic, social, or political problem and corresponding theory; establish desired outcomes in relation to the status quo.</i>	A relevant economic, social, or political problem was thoroughly described and associated with the appropriate theory; clear and realistic goals established. <b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> No additional description.	A relevant economic, social, or political problem was adequately described and associated with the appropriate theory; goals established. <b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> No additional description.	A relevant economic, social, or political problem was insufficiently described and loosely associated with the appropriate theory; weak goals. <b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> No additional description.	Failed to identify a relevant economic, social, or political problem and/or no correlation to theory; irrelevant goals. <b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> No additional description.
<i>Policy Recommendations (note: number of policy options required will be determined when assignment is created). Rubric can be adjusted accordingly.</i>	A credible policy option was comprehensively described and compared with the status quo. A detailed justification was provided for why the policy option should be adopted or rejected. <b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> A thorough explanation of how the policy recommendation could depend on conditions such as market characteristics (e.g. relevant elasticities) was included.	A credible policy option was adequately described and compared with the status quo. A basic justification was provided for why the policy option should be adopted or rejected. <b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> An adequate explanation of how the policy recommendation could depend on conditions such as market characteristics (e.g. relevant elasticities) was included.	A policy option was insufficiently described or irrelevant with a weak comparison to the status quo. <b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> An inadequate explanation of how the policy recommendation could depend on conditions such as market characteristics was provided (e.g. relevant elasticities).	Failed to coherently describe a credible policy option or compare with the status quo. <b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> Unclear or lacking explanation of how the policy recommendation could depend on conditions such as market characteristics.
<i>Describe mechanisms by which the policy options affect outcomes.</i>	Applicable mechanisms were identified with a comprehensive analysis of how the outcomes may be affected. <b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> Appropriate attention was given to market mechanisms.	Applicable mechanisms were identified with an adequate analysis of how the outcomes may be affected. <b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> Sufficient attention was given to market mechanisms.	Applicable mechanisms were identified with vague explanation. <b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> Insufficient or no attention was given to market mechanisms.	Demonstrated confusion in attempt to identify applicable mechanisms or no attempt was made. Insufficient or unclear explanation. <b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> NA
<i>Assess Potential Effectiveness</i>	A thorough analysis was conducted of implemented measures and data. Evidence was used to draw valid conclusions. Short- and long-term outcomes of the recommendation were clearly defined (as appropriate).	An adequate analysis was conducted of implemented measures and data. A reasonable attempt was made to use evidence to draw valid conclusions. Short- and long-term outcomes of the	An unclear or insufficient analysis was conducted of implemented measures and data. An inadequate attempt was made to use evidence to draw valid conclusions. Short- and long-term outcomes of the	An incomplete or no analysis was conducted of implemented measures and data. A poor attempt or no attempt was made to use evidence to draw valid conclusions. Failed to coherently define short-

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	<p><b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> Efficiency and distributional impacts were thoroughly addressed with additional aspects of effectiveness considered. Economic reasoning such as graphical analysis or empirical information as well as contingent statements were used appropriately to assess effectiveness. Argument was comprehensive and logical. Graphs were used correctly and explained.</p>	<p>recommendation were defined (as appropriate). <b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> Efficiency and distributional impacts were sufficiently addressed. Economic reasoning was used adequately to demonstrate effectiveness. Argument was logical. Graphs were correctly used and explained.</p>	<p>recommendation were vaguely defined (as appropriate). <b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> Efficiency and distributional impacts were sufficiently addressed. Economic reasoning was used adequately to demonstrate effectiveness. Argument was logical. Graphs were correctly used and explained.</p>	<p>and long-term outcomes of the recommendation (as appropriate). <b>Specific Assignment requirements:</b> Failed to address efficiency and distributional impacts as aspects of effectiveness.</p>
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