

**CHASS Cannabis Studies Minor
Assessment Plan
May 2019
Dr. Karen Yescavage, coordinator of the Cannabis Studies minor**

Identification of Program

- CHASS Interdisciplinary Cannabis Studies Minor
- Plan currently under development
- Primary contact for assessment: Karen Yescavage, coordinator

Mission, Goals, and Student Learning Outcomes

The mission of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is to help students develop critical thinking skills, aesthetic awareness, and ethical perspectives, to provide them with the tools and expertise necessary to function as responsible citizens and professionals and to engage in intellectual and artistic pursuits.

While a mission for the CHASS interdisciplinary cannabis minor has not been generated (yet), three student learning outcomes have been developed which related directly to the College's mission. Providing students in the minor with information about both positive and negative social and health impacts of cannabis helps prepare them to "function as responsible citizens and professionals." Additionally, exposing students to the policy implementation challenges associated with cannabis legalization at the state but not federal level enhances their "critical thinking skills."

Three student learning outcomes (SLOs) for the cannabis minor were created approximately 3 years ago when the minor was established in CHASS. Specifically, students will be able to:

1. Identify the legal and social ramifications/impacts of cannabis on society.
2. Explain local, state, and federal policies regarding cannabis.
3. Apply knowledge gained from cannabis studies to internships in health, social, legal, or nonprofit settings, as appropriate.

Curriculum

Several changes to the curriculum will be proposed Fall 2019. These are in response to interviews conducted with cannabis studies minors and other students expressing interest in the minor but hesitant to commit to it. After consulting with the department chairs of the disciplines constituting the minor, we have agreed upon the following changes:

- Remove entirely from the minor Chemistry as this served as a barrier to students signing up for the minor (and it's outside the College)
- Remove entirely from the minor Botany as several prerequisites are needed (and it's outside the College)
- Prioritize cannabis-specific courses as core requirements
- Move from core requirements to electives courses peripherally dedicated to cannabis studies
- Add diversity to the electives (Women's studies and Chicano studies)

Since a new coordinator of this minor took over in 2018-2019, this assessment plan is still in the development phase, and once more appropriate tools are put in place, a more systematic review of the SLOs, including rubrics, will be added to this plan.

CHASS Cannabis Studies Minor Program Assessment Plan Summary

Date Submitted: May 24, 2019

For Academic Year: 2018-2019

Student Learning Outcome	Measure description (direct or indirect?)	Timeline or cycle
<p><i>SLO1</i> Identify the legal and social ramifications/impacts of cannabis on society.</p>	<p><i>Measure 1 (direct)</i> SLOs 1 and 2 will be assessed annually in the SOC 418: Crime, Drugs, and Social Policy course. The assessment tool will be developed from assignments given in this course in which students are asked to articulate the social ramifications of cannabis on society, for example, evaluating the efficacy of the “war on drugs” and its impact on local communities. Students in this course should demonstrate, at minimum, proficiency in SLOs 1 and 2 based on their performance on these assignments.</p>	<p><i>Annually</i></p>
<p><i>SLO2</i> Explain local, state, and federal policies regarding cannabis.</p>	<p><i>See above</i></p>	
<p><i>SLO3</i> Apply knowledge gained from cannabis studies to internships and/or in the form of research in health, social, legal, or nonprofit settings, as appropriate.</p>	<p><i>Measure 2 (direct)</i> SLO 3 will be assessed annually once a capstone course or independent study is developed; this will be part of curriculum changes that will be brought forward in 2019-2020. As a pilot, the coordinator will offer Independent study/research credit to interested students to assist in cannabis research during the 2019-2020 academic year. The research is funded by the Institute of Cannabis Research and will assess the positive and negative impacts of cannabis on psychological (and emotional) pain management. This will culminate in: (1) a professional presentation at the annual ICR conference and (2) preparation of a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal.</p>	<p><i>Annually</i></p>

Expected level of student proficiency (definition and percentage)	<i>Expected level: 80% of students should demonstrate proficiency in SLOs 1 & 2 by the end of the upper division course Soc 418, presumably after completing Soc 261 and Soc 361.</i>	