

Program Assessment Plan
Cannabis Studies Minor
College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
Colorado State University - Pueblo
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Relation of Cannabis Studies Program to Mission and Goals of CHASS

The College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS) offers students opportunities to become ethical, socially responsible, engaged learners, who are prepared to assume leadership in a dynamic global context. We encourage lifelong learning and partnerships with the communities we serve. We aspire to develop individuals who contribute to enhancing a diverse, global society by offering courses and experiences that develop the aesthetic, creative, critical, and theoretical sense of our students.

The Cannabis Studies minor contributes to these efforts by exposing students to a variety of topics, perspectives, and courses from across disciplines within CHASS that complement majors in Cannabis Biology & Chemistry, Business, Criminology, History, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, and more. Instruction and assignments develop the aesthetic, creative, critical, and theoretical acumen of students, and encourages students to direct their learning and customize their Cannabis Studies to ensure that they learn what is needed to realize their future educational and career goals.

The Cannabis Studies minor required classes are SOC/CRIM 261: *Introduction to Cannabis Studies*, SOC/CRIM 361: *Advanced Cannabis Studies*, and CAN 493: *Senior Seminar*

Proposed Curriculum Changes

Goals and efforts recently made (AY 22-23) or planned for near future (AY 23-24)

Completed AY 22-23:

1. Revised *Cannabis Studies* overview and SLOs (see below) on all CSU-Pueblo webpages (except the ICR's to which I do not have access), and the catalogue.
2. Changed name of SOC/CRIM 261 from *Cannabis & Society* to *Introduction to Cannabis Studies*
3. Changed name of SOC/CRIM 361 from *Cannabis Policy* to *Advanced Cannabis Studies*
4. Revised curriculum in 261 and 361 so that 261 is a traditional "survey" style class that is appropriate for any student with an interest in cannabis and/or the humanities, arts, and social sciences. I have considered submitting it for consideration as a GenEd class but have not done so at this time.
5. Made SOC/CRIM 261 a prerequisite for SOC/CRIM 361. 361 now directly builds on what is learned in 261 and is designed for students who have declared the minor (though not limited to minor students). In 361 students begin the process of extending, specializing, and applying their knowledge of cannabis through projects rooted in business, research, social action, and creative works in consideration of their future educational and career goals.
6. Added CAN 493: *Cannabis Studies Senior Seminar* to the required core classes. In the future this class will be the primary venue in which program assessment will occur.
7. Revised the list of pre-approved classes that can be counted as electives. I focused the list on classes in CHASS and the other cannabis-focused programs. Students are also encouraged to petition the Cannabis Studies coordinator/advisor to approved other electives for which they can demonstrate a substantial and practical connection to Cannabis Studies. This connection will be demonstrated as part of a student's coursework in CAN 493.
8. Created a Planning Sheet for the program.

Still to do:

1. Make better use of the CAN prefix by cross listing any class with canna* (cannabis, cannabinoid, etc.) in its title or SLOs. I'd also like to change the prefix from CAN to CANS, but this is a minor change (I think).
2. Create CAN 490, 491, 492, 494, 495, and 498, and add them to the list of preapproved electives.
3. Better coordinate the Cannabis Studies curriculum with other cannabis-focused programs on campus, i.e. the Cannabis Biology & Chemistry programs and the Business Management: Cannabis Industry Management Concentration. Toward this end, I have started an informal "CSU Pueblo Cannabis Scholars" email list. I started the list in anticipation of the upcoming CAPB discussion regarding CHEM 491: *Cannabis Regulations* and its overlapping curriculum with SOC/CRIM 261 and 361.
4. Expand the number of CAN cross-listed courses offered across the CHASS departments. One specific way would be to offer what is now CHEM 491: *Cannabis Regulations* as a CAN/HIST/POLS class. Of course, this move needs to be made in cooperation with the CBC program.
5. Develop an online, asynchronous section of *Introduction to Cannabis Studies* (I'll be working on this, this summer).
6. Develop a *Cannabis Studies* online certificate in collaboration with Extended Studies (for AY 24-25).
7. After revisiting SOC/CRIM 261, 361, and CAN 493 SLOs this summer, I plan revise the *Cannabis Studies* SLOs again. This program assessment process has revealed the need to make them "SMARTer" and more suitable for future assessment.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate a mastery knowledge of the social history of cannabis, and the impact of its use and regulation on society, culture, and the environment at the local, state, and national level.
2. Students will demonstrate a mastery knowledge of the historical trends, current status, and potential developments in cannabis-related social science research, business practices, politics, entertainment, and lifestyles.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate in writing and verbally about cannabis-related issues from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.
4. Students will apply what they've learned from their Cannabis Studies minor course work to future educational and career endeavors through special projects, research, field experiences, and/or other independent study, as appropriate.

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

I plan to assess SLOs 1 and 2 with a pre/post-test of approximately "basic facts" all cannabis studies students should know. I would like 100% of Cannabis Studies students to know 100% of the basic facts. The pretest will be given in 261, a formative assessment in 361, and the summative assessment in CAN 493. This test still needs to be created. I will be working on it over the summer, and it will be ready for the fall semester (Fall 23) and administered in SOC/CRIM 261. The specific question(s) on each topic will change each time the test is given to the same student (i.e. in 261, 361, and 493). I hope to consult with the other Cannabis Studies scholars on campus regarding the question topics.

SLO 3 will be assessed across the Cannabis Studies curriculum by having students identify and submit a selection of cannabis-related writing and presentations. "Effectiveness" will be determined by the class instructor's assessment of class assignments (grade of C or higher), as well as summarily by the Cannabis Studies coordinator at the time of program assessment (ineffective / effective / more than effective). I would like 100% of Cannabis Studies students to demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate in writing and verbally. The assessment will be facilitated using coursework in CAN 493.

SLO 4 will be assessed in a manner similar to the current assessment but limited to declared Cannabis Studies students and reflective of their entire time in the program (rather than a single semester). The SLO 4 assessment will be reported a count and proportion of students satisfactorily completing (letter grade of C/S or higher) special projects, research, field experiences, and/or other independent study.

Lastly, I realize that this assessment plan should be more precise, and it will be. But again, I anticipate revising the program SLOs, and thus most likely the assessment plan. I am just getting started and excited about the future of the program including improvements to the assessment process. The reviewers' understanding and guidance is appreciated!