OVERVIEW OF BEAP
EXIT DATA 2011

Description of the Exit Survey Instrument

The BEAP exit survey reflects information reported by the students exiting the baccalaureate program in social work. The survey collects demographic data and information about the student's current work experience and future employment plans, and students evaluation of the program in the three areas. Section C contains the 35 items used to evaluate the curricula objectives of the Social Work major, using a scale of 1-9, where 1 = very poor; 3= poor; 4= poor/adequate; 5=adequate; 7=good; and 9=very good.

The 35 items are distributed among the 3 areas of the professional foundation, which also tie to the PLNU mission and major program goals.

Items 1-12   evaluate knowledge base   (PLNU 'teach' and 'learn')

Items 13-25   evaluate skills   (PLNU 'send' and 'serve')

Items 26-35   evaluate values and ethics   (PLNU 'shape' and 'grow')

2011 Data

Number respondents = 12

Assessment Summary

100% of respondents ranked the overall program at 7 or above, with more than 80% rating at 8 or above. The median for each of the 35 items was in the 7-9 range. Overall the evaluation is that the program is rated at 'very good'.

Section D: Target areas: Items on BEAP Exit survey rated in "adequate" (5-6) or below

Of the 35 items, the vast majority scores at 6 or above. Two items received a score of "4" by a single respondent. Although the six items receiving a score of 5 or below achieved both median and means at 7.0 "good" or above, these items are considered target items for further program evaluation because of the limited sample size. These items and the courses with primary responsibility for teaching the content are identified in the chart below.

Item Number	Scaled Score	Item	Curriculum Content Course Area
C1	5	Theories of Diversity	SOC101, SOC360, SWK 365
C3	5	Theories of policy in advancing social & economic justice	SWK330
C4	4	Knowledge of the history of social work	SWK 303
C5	4	Knowledge of current organizations and associations	SWK 303; SWK470, 472
C19	5	Skills in evaluating research studies	SOC460
C25	5	Seeking organizational change with supervision	SWK371

Current data are similar to the 2009 BEAP data with only one or two respondents rating any element at 5 (adequate) or below.

It is interesting to note that four items are in the same category of the professional foundation ('knowledge') as opposed to skills or values and ethics. It is interesting to note that items with similar content themes, such as "skills to evaluate research studies" rated as adequate yet the skills to apply research studies to practice scored higher. And, while one student felt the knowledge of client diversity was only adequate, the scores for applying cultural competence were higher. Since social work is an applied profession, it continues to be reassuring that students feel that they have the skills necessary to enter and apply knowledge in practice.

Review of these items point to a continued need to build opportunities exposure to current professional organizations and associations and to highlight the history of social work.   A review of course content shows the history of the profession is integrated in at least three courses but at least one student in each graduating class scored these items as less than 'adequate / good'. Similarly, all students are repeatedly exposed to major social work associations (NASW Code, CSWE, IFSW) and in SWK473 are required to join a professional association or subscribe to a professional journal. This may be impacted by the timing of the Exit Survey – a time when students face graduation and seeking their first professional employment. A focus group will be held with students entering senior status in 2011 to gather more information about these two items.

Overall the evaluation by students exiting the Social Work program in Spring 2011 was positive. More than 80% of respondents assessed the program as good or very good and scores in prior areas of concern: values and ethics; forms of oppression; and analysis of social policy have improved.