POL520 • Program Evaluation Methods

School of Governance & Public Policy • Graduate • 6 ECTS

Overview

Methods for evaluating public programs: logic models, measurement plans, and causal inference basics. Students design evaluations that fit real constraints, select metrics, consider bias and confounding, and communicate findings responsibly.

LOGISTICS

Credits: 6 ECTS
Level: Graduate
School: School of Governance & Public Policy
Prerequisites: None listed
Tags: evaluation, measurement, causal-inference
Meeting time: Weekly lecture + evaluation design lab
Instruction mode: Measure what matters: logic models, indicators, and causal reasoning

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be able to:
- Build logic models and translate them into measurement plans
- Explain basic causal inference concepts and common threats
- Write evaluation briefs that decision-makers can act on
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ASSESSMENT

Components
- Coursework: 60%
- Final project: 40%

Assessment is based on evaluation artifacts: logic models, measurement plans, and short
memos. Strong work is specific about identification limits and data quality.

WEEKLY PLAN

Schedule
Week 1: Week 1
  - Logic models: activities, outputs, outcomes
Week 2: Week 2
  - Indicators and baselines: what you can measure reliably
Week 3: Week 3
  - Causal inference basics: confounding and selection
Week 4: Week 4
  - Study designs: experiments, quasi-experiments, and mixed methods

Extended outline
- Logic models: activities, outputs, outcomes
- Indicators and baselines: what you can measure reliably
- Causal inference basics: confounding and selection
- Study designs: experiments, quasi-experiments, and mixed methods
- Reporting: interpretation and limits
- Final: an evaluation plan + risk register

POLICIES & RESOURCES

- Ethics: consider participant burden and privacy.
- Transparency: pre-specify assumptions when possible.
- Academic integrity: cite methodologies and sources.

Suggested resources
- Logic model template
- Measurement plan rubric
- Causal threats checklist