

A.A. EVANGELISM & COMPASSION MINISTRY (AAPX) OBJECTIVES, MEASUREMENTS, & OUTCOMES

The A.A. Evangelism & Compassion Ministry (Praxis) degree is designed to prepare students to serve in evangelism and compassion ministries in various church and parachurch settings. The program uses the head (knowing), heart (being), and hands (doing) method of disciple-making that Jesus modeled in the Scriptures. As well as a strong Christian community and classroom instruction, there is a strong experiential component which allows students life-on-life encounters with lost and hurting people in their own cultural context, in large urban centres, and in another culture. Students are also exposed to a variety of social and spiritual issues, as well as ways of addressing these issues.

Because there is a significant mentoring component in this degree, the program is designed to help students develop in their ministry skills and dispositions. Assessment of student progress is, in some ways, more subjective. Students who enrol in this program but are not open to the intense experiences and mentoring tend to transfer out of the program before completion, thus, those who complete the program have, in large measure, met the objectives. Of those who do not continue in the A.A. Praxis degree program, up to half transfer to another of Kingswood's degree programs.

Transcript grades for successful completion of these experiences is based on not only participation in the various ministries, but also in students' abilities to engage increasingly with them, to reflect on the ministries and experiences, as well as student openness to mentoring.

A.A. Praxis Degree Completion & Retention

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
First-year AA PX students	25	18	13	12
Students who completed AA PX degree	16	12	4	6 ¹
Students who transferred to other KU degree, before completing AAPX	1	4	6	3
AA PX Retention Rate (institution-wide)	68%	89%	54%	75%

OBJECTIVE 1 – A.A. Praxis students will have a foundation in a range of general education courses, biblical studies courses, spiritual formation experiences

While the focus of the A.A. Praxis degree is practical ministry, students complete at least 27 hours of general education courses, addressing communication, humanities/fine arts, natural science/mathematics, and social/behavioural sciences, and at least 25 hours of Bible and theology courses. Emphasis on spiritual formation means that students are challenged and provided opportunities to grow in their faith as well as in the knowledge of scripture.

Benchmark 1: 75% of AAPX students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in general education courses²

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	75%	84%	65%	66%
Number of courses	10	12	11	11
AAPX students enrolled in above courses	114	137	105	71

Benchmark 2: 75% of AAPX students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in Bible & theology courses³

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	74%	71%	71%	56%
Number of courses	6	7	7	7
AAPX students enrolled in above courses	72	79	56	41

Benchmark 3: 75% of AAPX students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in assignments related to the study of scripture and faith development⁴

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	64%	69%	52%	76%
Number of courses	2	2	2	2
AAPX students enrolled in above courses	25	32	27	17

OBJECTIVE 2 – A.A. Praxis students will understand spiritual and social issues present in the world, and be able to address them from a Biblical perspective

The course of study for this program begins with an examination of the biblical roots of compassion ministry, as well as historical and current models of such ministries. Students also study social justice from a biblical perspective, considering the corporate and individual Christian responsibility to address such issues. Although the topics for consideration change based on current issues, sometimes from year to year, the principles addressed remain consistent.

Benchmark 1: 75% of AA PX students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in assignments which relate to an understanding of current issues⁵

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	84%	93%	88%	82%
Number of assignments	6	6	6	6
AAPX students enrolled in above courses	87	111	83	45

Benchmark 2: 75% of AAPX students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in assignments which relate to their engagement with and reflection on current issues⁶

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	76%	90%	75%	80%
Number of assignments	4	4	4	4
AAPX students enrolled in above courses	63	72	56	30

OBJECTIVE 3 - A.A. Praxis students will be prepared intellectually and experientially for further study in the fields of evangelism, compassion, and social justice

A significant number of students who complete all or part of the A.A. Praxis degree transfer into other Kingswood ministry degree programs, and specifically into the B.A. Ministry, Evangelism & Social Justice major. It should be noted that in the past three years, the Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian were students who had first graduated with the A.A. Praxis degree.

Data:

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
First-year AA PX students	13	22	25	18
AAPX students transferring to any 4-year degree	10	118	9	11
AAPX students completing a 4-year degree	10	15	8	9

OBJECTIVE 4 – A.A. Praxis students will have first-hand experience of evangelistic and compassionate outreach work in a wide variety of environments outside of traditional church settings⁷

In addition to a core of general education and Bible/theology courses, students participate in a wide range of hands-on social ministries, which are graduated in nature and expectations, as students develop in their ministry skills and dispositions. In the first year of Praxis students spend approximately 50 hours per semester sharing their faith in various outreach settings through word and deed, receiving coaching, feedback, and evaluation from their professor/Program Director. Full engagement with this is measured through their grade in Regional Praxis I and II (PX 115 and PX 117). In year two they do the same thing in two week-long intensives, one in an urban setting in North America and the other in an international cross-cultural setting. Students answer a series of reflective questions and assign themselves a grade. The final grade in Urban Praxis (PX 250) and Cross-Cultural Praxis (PX 251) is assigned by the professor/Program Director.

Benchmark: 90% of AAPX students will earn a grade of at least 90% (B-) in practical ministry components⁸

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	100%	100%	97%	96%
Number of courses	4	4	3	4
AAPX students enrolled in above courses	58	65	33	26

CONCLUSION / ACTION STEPS

There is no doubt that among Kingswood programs, the Praxis programs have suffered the most over the past two-plus years due to Covid restrictions. This program includes weekly ministry trips to sites such as those listed in Note 7. Most of these ministries were closed and/or not open to additional volunteers in the 2020-2021 year; some re-opened in 2021-2022; some are still not open. This has certainly affected enrolment; it is disheartening to be enrolled in a practical program when many of the experiences must be cancelled. With an increased return to 'normal,' there are indications that enrolment in this program is recovering. Despite this, there are several areas that warrant attention to ascertain if these low scores are Covid-related or indicators of more significant issues.

- There are below-target scores in areas which are academic based, namely general education and Bible/Theology courses (Objective 1, Benchmarks 1 and 2). If these are truly Covid-related the scores in 2022-2023 will improve and return to above the target level.
- This review of objectives and measures has provided opportunity to more clearly articulate how students meet the objectives of this degree and the measurements used.

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- ¹ This number is based on projections in fall 2022
 - ² Foundations of Social Justice (SO 230); General Psychology (PS 104); Introduction to Sociology (SO 221) or Intercultural Competencies (SO 309); Oral Communication (EN 203); Wellness (GE 100); World Religions (GE 301) or Worldview (GE 302); Writing & Research (EN 135)
 - ³ Basic Christian Beliefs (TH 203); Biblical Literature I (OT 101); Biblical Literature II (NT 101); Inductive Bible Study (BT 200); Bible electives
 - ⁴ Exegesis project (BT 200); weekly journals (MIN 105)
 - ⁵ Research papers & class presentations, interviews (MIN 110, SO 230)
 - ⁶ Act of compassion & Compassion journal assignments (MIN 110); Act of justice & Justice journal assignments (SO 230)
 - ⁷ Regional Praxis I & II (PX 115, PX 117) (Local Ministries, including Salvation Army, Romero House, Karing Kitchen, Community Kitchen, Alimentaire Food Bank, Dorchester Prison, New Brunswick Youth Center, Harvest House, Solomon's Porch, Joshua Group, Boaz Ministries, Newcomer's Café, Inner City Youth Ministry, Crosswinds, Atlantic Teen Challenge, Soul's Harbor); Urban Praxis (PX 250) (New York City ministries including Living Waters Fellowship, Anchor House Rehab, Bowery Mission, City Relief, Harlem Food Bank, Metro Ministries, New Hope, St Paul's House, Father's Heart; Cross Cultural (PX 251) (including Haiti – Wesleyan Global Partners, Guatemala - Centro Cristiano Cultural Guatemala, Honduras - Manos Extendidas, Peru – Wesleyan Global Partners)
 - ⁸ Regional Praxis I (PX 115); Regional Praxis II (PX 117); Urban Praxis (PX 250); Cross-Cultural Praxis (PX 251)