

EVANGELISM & SOCIAL JUSTICE (PX) ~ OBJECTIVES, MEASUREMENTS & OUTCOMES

The Evangelism & Social Justice (Praxis) major builds on the A.A. (Evangelism & Compassion) curriculum taking students beyond the experience of serving in evangelism and compassion ministries to independently leading such ministries in church and parachurch settings. Both programs use the head (knowing), heart (being), and hands (doing) method of disciple-making that Jesus modeled in the Scriptures.

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 early in the program, thus, those who complete the program have, in large measure, met the objectives. Transcript grades for successful completion of these experiences is based on not only participation in the various ministries, but also in students' abilities to provide leadership to these ministries

OBJECTIVE 1 – Praxis major 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 major 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 PX major students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in assignments which relate to an understanding of current issues¹

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	50%	87%	33%	67%
Number of assignments	6	6	3	3
PX students enrolled in above courses	6	15	1	3

Benchmark 2: 75% of PX major students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in assignments which relate to their engagement with and reflection on current issues²

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	100%	70%	100%	100%
Number of assignments	4	4	2	2
PX students enrolled in above courses	4	10	1	2

OBJECTIVE 2 – Praxis major students will have first-hand experience of evangelistic and compassionate outreach work in a wide variety of environments outside of traditional church settings³

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-Cutlural Praxis (PX 251) is assigned by the professor/Program Director.

Benchmark: 90% of PX major students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in practical ministry components⁴

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of courses	4	4	1	2
AAPX students enrolled in above courses	10	6	1	2

OBEJCTIVE 3 – Praxis major students will have an in-depth understanding of at least one compassion or social justice issue and ministry to those dealing with this issue

In their third year, BAM PX students focus on one aspect of compassion or social justice ministry through Directed Praxis (PX 350), building on experiences in Regional Praxis in the first year of the program. Because of the regular, sustained engagement, students get a closer look at how the ministry functions as well as the hands-on engagement with the ministry. In the Praxis Senior Project (PX 400) students study an area of interest within the realm of evangelism, compassion, or social justice ministry. Here they seek to understand the roots and nature of the issue as well as ministry to those impacted by it.

Benchmark: 75% of PX major students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in in-depth ministry focus assignments

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	100%	100%	89%	100%
Number of courses	2	2	2	1
AAPX students enrolled in above courses	10	11	9	1

OBJECTIVE 4 – Praxis major students will be equipped to work in organizations and churches already focused on compassion and social justice, as well as to establish and lead evangelistic and compassion outreach ministries

In the third or fourth year, students assume a leadership role among first-year students enrolled in Regional Praxis I and II, assisting the Program Director in planning, leading, and reflecting on the ministry experience with first-year students. This gives them an insight into the logistics of leading such ministries, including mentoring younger students, while continuing to be mentored by the PX Program Director. Like all B.A. Ministry students, students enrolled in the Praxis major complete an Supervised Ministry Experience (internship) in a church or ministry where they can gain first-hand experience in planning and leading evangelism, compassion, and social justice ministries.

Benchmark 1: PX major students will successfully complete leadership assignments⁵

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	100%	100%	71%	50%
Number of courses	2	2	2	2
AAPX students enrolled in above courses	14	8	7	2

Benchmark 2: PX major students will receive affirmative responses from their supervisors related to entry-level preparedness for ministry in their field

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Level of preparedness:				na
More than ready	1	2	2	
Ready	2	2	2	
Marginally ready				
Not ready				
Supports/Growth needed:				
Coach/Mentor				
Increased leadership capacity		1		
Initiative/Confidence		2		
Time Management	1	1	2	
PX students enrolled in above course	5	4	4	1

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 no-doubt 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 two Praxis programs at Kingswood University, namely the two-year A.A. degree, and the major within the B.A. Ministry degree. While students take many of the same courses in the first years, the outcomes are different. In areas where the B.A. students appear to have struggled (e.g. Objective 1, Benchmark 1, related to understanding of current issues), A.A. students appear to have excelled.

- Because there is significant overlap between the two programs, assessing the two programs as a whole may be a better path.
- 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.

¹ Research papers & class presentations, interviews (MIN 110, SO 230)
² Act of compassion & Compassion journal assignments (MIN 110); Act of justice & Justice journal assignments (SO 230)
³ 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)
⁴ Regional Praxis I (PX 115); Regional Praxis II (PX 117); Urban Praxis (PX 250); Cross-Cultural Praxis (PX 251)
⁵ Leadership Praxis (PX 351); Supervised Ministry Experience (MIN 425)