Graduate Center for Public Policy and Administration
Final Skills Self-Assessment

Instructions: Effective Fall 2007, as the final requirement of PPA 697, students are required to complete the Final Skills Self-Assessment. The purpose of this Self-Assessment is to allow students and faculty alike to assess student skills in each core content area at the conclusion of studies in the California State University, Long Beach MPA Program. It is vital that students provide honest and accurate information in this Final Assessment. The purpose of this requirement is to provide an empirical basis for assessing student skill development as a result of instruction received in the MPA Program. This Final Assessment should be submitted to your PPA 697 instructor as part of your Student Learning Portfolio. The purpose of the Initial and Final Skills Self Assessments is to allow you and the faculty to reflect on your development during your time in the MPA Program.

Begin by responding to the questions on the following page. Indicate your knowledge in each of these areas by circling the most appropriate number (1 = no knowledge; 5 = a great deal of knowledge). In Part II, provide a written discussion of any skills and/or experience that you have in the core content areas. Your discussion should include an honest assessment of your strengths and weaknesses in each content area. For more information on each topic, see the list of core concepts for each of these core content areas on the PPA department web page at http://www.csulb.edu/colleges/chhs/departments/ppa/coreconcepts/. The answers provided in Part II of this Final Skills Self Assessment should be substantially different than those provided on the Initial Assessment and should demonstrate concrete examples of skill acquisition in each of the core content areas. Use specific examples to illustrate the skills that you have acquired in each core area. In Part III, reflect on the skills that you acquired in the program and how well the program met your expectations.

Format: There is no mandated length for this assignment. However, it is useful to organize your discussion by core content area. Upon completion, submit this assignment, along with the Initial Skills Self-Assessment, in Part I of the Student Learning Portfolio.

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Part I

Please indicate how much you think you know about each area by circling the appropriate number.

1 = nothing/5 = a great deal	Area
1 2 3 4 5	Budgeting/financial management
1 2 3 4 5	Decision-making
1 2 3 4 5	Ethics
1 2 3 4 5	Oral communications
1 2 3 4 5	Organization behavior
1 2 3 4 5	Personnel/human resources
1 2 3 4 5	Policy analysis
1 2 3 4 5	Problem-solving
1 2 3 4 5	Research/statistics
1 2 3 4 5	Working in teams
1 2 3 4 5	Written communications

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Part II

Please discuss your experience and/or skills in each of the following content areas:

Budgeting and Finance
Human Resource Management
Organization Theory
Policy Analysis
Research Methods

Part III

Please reflect on how well the MPA program met your expectations.