

P-SAP Questions and Issues

Below are a number of issues that have been used with the P-SAP in the past. For best results, we recommend that you either use two issues- one stated from an individual perspective and one stated from a systemic perspective- or one issue stated from both perspectives. Most issues can be stated from either perspective. For consultation on issues the creation of course-specific issues, please contact Dr. Pamela Steinke at steinkep@meredith.edu or Dr. Peggy Fitch at fitchp@central.edu. Please let us know if do create new issues that you would be willing to share with others so that we can add them to the list of sample issues below.

To use the P-SAP rubric, the following questions should be presented after each issue:

Questions Coded Using P-SAP Rubric:

- 1) Do you consider this to be a problem? If yes, explain how it is a problem. If no, explain how other people might consider it to be a problem.
- 2) What do you or other people think causes this problem?
- 3) What do you or other people think could be done to try to solve this problem?
- 4) What are the strengths and limitations of these possible solutions to this problem?

Sample Issues:

Discipline	Course	Issue	Individual	Systemic
Biology	Plant Biology	Alien non-native plant species often show up in areas where they are unwelcome such as nature preserves.		X
Business and Management	Managing and Valuing Cultural Diversity	The comfort zone of many Americans is not inclusive of all of the types of people they must interact with at work.	X	
		Diversity is too narrowly defined by most corporations.		X
	Organizational Behavior	Too many managers today think that leadership is all about how to control others.	X	
		Sexual harassment in the workplace is often hard to document.		X
Chemistry	Analytical Chemistry	The large amount of data provided by using chemical analysis for water analysis and air analysis is not easy to interpret and does not suggest a clear course of action, which can limit its perceived usefulness.	X	X
Communication	Advanced Public Relations	Non-profits often do not have the resources to support quality PR efforts.		X
Economics	Environmental Economics and	Even when recycling is encouraged, people often do not comply.	X	X

	Public Policy			
	Principles of Microeconomics	Young people often grow up with little understanding of the basic principles of business and economics.	X	
Elementary Education	Exceptional Children	Teachers often use the same teaching strategies for exceptional children that they use for the other children in their class.	X	
		It is difficult to consistently implement the federal and state laws covering the education of exceptional children.		X
	Math Methods	Disadvantaged youth often have difficulties with mathematical concept development.	X	
English	Technical Writing	Nonprofits often do not have the resources to meet their need for written materials (e.g., newsletters, brochures, press releases).		X
Exercise Science/Physical Education	Adaptive Physical Education	Students with mental and physical disabilities often do not see physical education as something that can enhance their life and self-concept.	X	
		Teaching units for physical education are rarely designed with the needs of special populations in mind.		X
	Measurement and Evaluation	Individuals often do not receive support or feedback for their fitness improvement efforts.	X	
	Sports Nutrition	Individuals at risk for diseases such as cancer, coronary heart disease, and diabetes often have a hard time sticking to a preventative diet.	X	
		Obesity has become a problem of epidemic proportion in American despite a corresponding increase in new diets designed for weight loss.		X
Gender Studies	Introduction to Women's Studies	In the U.S., poverty is a gendered issue.		X
Philosophy and Religion	Changing the World	The real problem today is people failing, or feeling unable, to take responsibility for what needs to be changed in the world.	X	
Psychology	Child and Adolescent Development	Parents in the U.S. are often frustrated in their efforts to find affordable, quality childcare.	X	
		The field of developmental psychology has historically overstated the influence that parents have in creating individual differences among children.		X

		Parents often get blamed for how their kids turn out	X	
	Educational Psychology	The U.S. educational system is relying more and more on standardized test scores as the most important measure of student success.		X
	Parenting and Teaching	Many parents are lacking in the basic skills, knowledge, and understanding needed to be a good parent.	X	
		School systems often have difficulty finding a healthy balance between student freedom and student responsibility.		X
	Psychology of Women	In our culture, many men have a sense of entitlement to certain “privileges” and rewards when they interact with women.	X	
Social Work	Introduction to Social Work	Sometimes basic social work values (e.g., non-judgmental approach, client self-determination, social work skills and problem solving) are not utilized in the actual practice of social work.	X	
	Practicum in Social Work	When different organizations meet to address a community issue, they often have different agendas, purposes and goals.		X
	Social Justice	Many immigrants from Mexico do not speak English.	X	
Sociology	Practicum in Sociology	Some nonprofit organizations with pro-social goals can do more harm than good.		X
Cross Disciplinary	Leadership Seminar	Leaders often do not fully recognize their responsibility to serve their communities.	X	
	Service Learning	College courses often do not make direct connections between course content and the application of that content to the “real” world.		X
	Research Methods (physical, biological or social sciences)	The average person has little knowledge or understanding of much of the research being done at colleges and universities.	X	
		The media often distorts or misrepresents research findings.		X