Maria Ruiz

The International Area Studies Program underwent an extensive and exhaustive 5-year review this past academic year during which time we developed a new Global Studies Track, parallel to the old Regional Studies Track. In addition to adding the new track to the major, we revamped the IAS learning outcomes that more specifically address the interdisciplinary approach of the major. With these exciting new changes, we are also in the process of changing the name of the program from International Area Studies to Global and Regional Studies (GRS). The new learning outcomes allow students to better demonstrate their cultural literacy; improve language acquisition; and understand and analyze critically global and regional connections, processes, and development outcomes from multiple academic perspectives. Additional curricular changes have also been made; we’ve added a lower division introduction course (GRS 1) and a thesis course (IAS 196). Given the changes to both the Program and the outcomes, it is particularly important that IAS establish an assessment process that is in alignment with our current program review plan.