

Appendix A

UNLV PUA 791 Research Project Interview Questions

General Background:

1. How many years have you been in your current position?
2. How many years have you been directly involved with public policy issues?
3. How many employees work in your organization?
4. How many employees do you directly manage?
5. What is the average annual operating budget for the planning department?
6. What is the size of the population the planning department serves?

Definition of Policy Analysis: Policy analysis is any research or form of expertise used to make well-informed decisions about policies, programs, or projects.

For the following questions, think of the three most significant public policy decisions you made in the last year:

1. Describe your role and responsibility for developing public policy recommendations and/or decisions.

- a. Do you make new policy?
- b. Evaluate existing policy?
- c. Create alternatives for policy?

2. As a department/division head, what kind of information/recommendations are you typically requested to provide for public policy decisions and to whom?

3. Where do you get information you need to develop public policy for either decisions or recommendations and in what format is it provided?

4. Who conducts research analysis and provides recommendations for public policy decisions for your department/division?

- a. Committees/commissions
- b. Attorneys
- c. Contractors
- d. Analysts
- e. Management staff
- f. Public
- g. Staff
- h. Other sources

5. What methods of analysis or processes are used within your department/division to develop public policy recommendations and/or decide between alternative public policy options?

- a. Gantt charts
- b. Flow charts
- c. Performance indicators
- d. Cost-effectiveness analysis
- e. Surveys
- f. Monitoring
- g. GIS mapping, etc.
- h. Other

6. Ultimately, what or who has the most significant influence when it comes to making final public policy decisions for your department/division?