The nonprofit faculty have formed a committee that includes undergraduate, MA, and Ph.D. faculty members. This group meets regularly to ensure a unified approach and quality across all programming. Together we discuss the progress of our students and agree on action plans to assist students who may be struggling. To improve student learning and program efficacy, data from student and program outcomes, student evaluations, exit surveys, alumni surveys, interviews with nonprofit employers, and benchmarking against similar programs were used to inform a comprehensive review of the MA curriculum.

We learned that students overwhelmingly seek out our program because of the applied projects component and the balance of theory and practice presented in the coursework. Alumni report that they appreciate having a mix of full time faculty and part-time practitioner faculty. It was learned that students would appreciate more flexibility in designing their trajectory in the program. Some gaps and overlap in the overall curriculum were also noted. As a result, the number of core required units were reduced from 31 units to 27 units and a new course covering the development of human capital was added.

The rubric and process for the culminating portfolio were revised this year and we partnered with USD IT department to pilot the portfolio feature of Blackboard. Eight-six percent of the students received a score of "excellent" or "good" on their final portfolio, indicating that all program outcomes were met. However, during initial debriefing on the portfolio review process, it was noted that some parts of the rubric still need to be revised. The process also highlighted the need for additional instruction on the proper use of theory and critique of theory in students' written work. In the coming months, the nonprofit faculty committee will be reviewing individual course syllabi and working with part-time faculty to ensure more uniformity regarding expectations for students' work.