BA in Political Science - BA-PSCA

Academic year 2024-2025

BA in Political Science - BA-PSCA Learning Outcomes

Knowledge of Political Science Subfields NOT MET

Students will demonstrate a substantive knowledge in the five subfields of Political Science – American, Comparative, International Relations, Policy and Public Administration, and Statistics and Research Methods.

ACTIONS MFASURES RESULTS NOT MET Maintain Assessment Strategy Departmental Standardized Test Departmental Standardized Test The assessment will continue for another year Exceeded Not Met to determine if any changes to the curriculum Graduating seniors will be required prior to are necessary. If multiple students do not graduation to take a standardized test achieve the goal, we will reassess how to constructed by Ph.D. holding faculty in the improve student performance. Department of Political Science. The examination will be administered via Blackboard during the Spring semester. The 100% examination contains questions categorized Values are not shown when too close to each other. in the five subject areas and provides a Click or use arrow keys to see details. standardized score that will allow the department to compare student performance Exceeded: 89% based on changes and past scores. Not Met: 11% A score of 55 out of 100 or above is 89% Met Total: considered proficient. A typical student degree plan will only expose a student to Not Met Total: 11% approximately 80% of the material on the exam, therefore a lower success level is **Analysis** expected. Direct - Exam (Course) The results of the assessment were driven by one particular student. Eight of Target nine students demonstrated the desired improvement during the completion of their degree plan. Dropping the outlier, The target is for all graduating seniors to the average student scored an 84% on achieve a proficient score on the exam. the exam, far exceeding expectations. MET No actions have been added. Student Written Paper Student Written Paper Exceeded Met Review one paper from each graduating senior. The paper will be assigned to one of the five areas and evaluated for successful application of the subfield. A subfield rubric will be utilized for the term papers. 100% A score of 13 out of 16 on the rubric is Values are not shown when too close to each other. considered proficient. Click or use arrow keys to see details. Direct - Assignment Exceeded: 60% Target Met: 40% Met Total: 100% The goal is 80% proficient across all Not Met Total: subfields. **Analysis** All five papers met or exceeded expectations. The only problem was that only three of the five subfields were represented. In order to assess the individual subfields, we will need multiple assessment cycles to get adequate

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numbers to evaluate the five areas. The areas of international relations and comparative politics did not have submissions by graduating seniors in this assessment cycle.

General Outcome Actions

ACTIONS

Gather Additional Data

Not Started

A second year of data collection will provide a larger n and allow us to better assess our subfields.

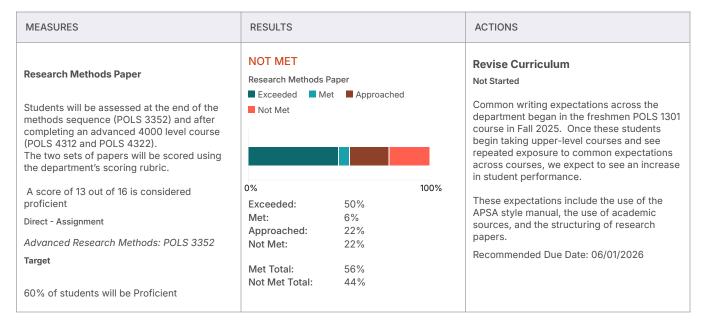
Recommended Due Date: 06/01/2026

Conclusion

The assessment has two primary problems. The first is the low n. We do not have a large program, and our seniors are spread out across classes. It is difficult to get a large enough sample to truly evaluate the subfields. We will need to collect data over multiple assessment cycles. The second issue is that the results are being skewed by one individual. This problem has the same solution as outliers will not have as large an impact in a large sample.

Original Research NOT MET

Students will develop the ability to conduct original research in the field.



Advance Senior Assessment

Students will be assessed at the end of the methods sequence (POLS 3352) and after completing an advanced 4000 level course (POLS 4312 and POLS 4322).

The two sets of papers will be scored using the department's scoring rubric.

A score of 13 out of 16 is considered proficient.

Direct - Assignment

International Law/Institutions: POLS 4322

Target

70% of students will be Proficient

NOT MET

Analysis

Zero students met the criteria this academic year. Students are taking the courses out of sequence.

Gather Additional Data

COMPLETE

Every year will not generate students who meet this criterion, as students are not forced to take courses in the recommended order. These courses are still the best location to assess undergraduate research and the end of a student's degree plan.

Recommended Due Date: 06/24/2025

Conclusion

There were two issues with this outcome. The first was a lack of data. We simply do not have the number of majors to generate the needed data in a single academic year. The second one is tied to student performance. Changes across the curriculum should address these issues as students are exposed to the new points of emphasis in the curriculum.

Student Improvement MET

Students will demonstrate improvement in knowledge in American, Comparative, International Relations, Policy and Public Administration, and Statistics and Research Methods.

MEASURES	RESULTS	ACTIONS
The entrance examination will be given in the fall semester to all students enrolled in POLS 1301 (Introduction to Political Science). The same examination will be given to all graduating seniors with a major in Political Science as an exit examination required in the student's last semester of course work. The exit exam consists of five separate area exams administered all at once	MET ENTRANCE Exit 24_25.xlsx Analysis Students did very well in all five areas. In fact, the lowest percent increase was 165% increase. The increase ranged from 165% to 251%. We will be increasing are bench mark for improvement next year as the curriculum changes seem to have all five areas doing exceptionally well.	Revise Benchmark / Target COMPLETE American - 125% Comparative - 50% I.R 50% Policy and Public Administration - 50% Stats - 50% Recommended Due Date: 06/24/2025

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General Outcome Actions

ACTIONS

Revise Benchmark / Target

COMPLETE

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