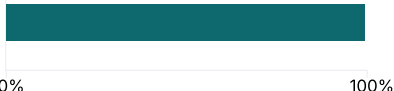


Knowledge of Political Science Subfields **NOT MET**

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.

MEASURES	RESULTS	ACTIONS
Departmental Standardized Test Graduating seniors will be required prior to graduation to take a standardized test constructed by Ph.D. holding faculty in the Department of Political Science. The examination will be administered via Blackboard during the Spring semester. The examination contains questions categorized in the five subject areas and provides a standardized score that will allow the department to compare student performance based on changes and past scores. A score of 55 out of 100 or above is considered proficient. A typical student degree plan will only expose a student to approximately 80% of the material on the exam, therefore a lower success level is expected. Direct - Exam (Course-based) Target The target is for all graduating seniors to achieve a proficient score on the exam.	MET Departmental Standardized Test ■ Exceeded  0% 100% <i>Values are not shown when too close to each other. Click or use arrow keys to see details.</i> Exceeded: 100% Met Total: 100% Not Met Total: Exit Exam Results 25_26.xlsx Analysis All 8 seniors who took the exit exam met the established goal. In fact, the overall average of 88.75 was the highest exit exam average we have had. There were strong gains in the areas of public administration and comparative politics that showed that past adjustments to the courses in those areas have resulted in increased exit exam scores for our seniors.	Revise Benchmark / Target COMPLETE We will increase our benchmark to 75% in the next assessment cycle.
Student Written Paper 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. A score of 13 out of 16 on the rubric is considered proficient. Direct - Assignment Target The goal is 80% proficient across all subfields.	NOT MET Student Written Paper ■ Exceeded ■ Met ■ Not Met  0% 100% Exceeded: 57% Met: 14% Not Met: 29% Met Total: 71% Not Met Total: 29% Analysis Five of seven papers met the benchmark, resulting in a 71.43% success rate. Both papers were submitted by students who did not succeed in other elements of the course. The small n makes it difficult to	Maintain Assessment Strategy The not met result was driven by two students. With the extremely small number of students in the analysis, we will look at an additional year of data before making changes.

	determine if this is a pattern or driven by two individual students.	
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Conclusion

One of the two outcomes met our benchmarks. We will continue with our current assessment and curriculum unless a trend emerges. The lack of achieving our goal appears to be driven by two outlier data points

Original Research **MET**

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

MEASURES	RESULTS	ACTIONS
Research Methods Paper 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 <i>Advanced Research Methods: POLS 3352</i> Target 60% of students will be Proficient	MET Research Methods Paper ■ Exceeded ■ Met ■ Not Met  0% 100% Exceeded: 69% Met: 15% Not Met: 15% Met Total: 85% Not Met Total: 15% Analysis Out of the total of 13 papers by seniors in designated classes, 11 of the 13 met or exceeded the benchmark of 13. This demonstrates success across the curriculum in undergraduate research paper.	<i>No actions have been added.</i>
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 <i>International Law/Institutions: POLS 4322</i> Target 70% of students will be Proficient	NOT MET Summary No assignments met this criteria in the 25/26 academic year. Analysis No students met the criteria for this assessment this semester. Students are taking all their courses in the major early and are not enrolling in the designation courses after having completed the methods sequence.	Revise Measurement / Assessment Not Started We will expand the number of courses that senior papers may be drawn from. We will track the student rather than the level of the course.

Conclusion

We only had data on one of our two outcomes. The second outcome has too narrow of a definition to capture enough cases to analyze. We will broaden the number of cases next year. We were very successful in the outcome that we had data for. There are no issues with the production of original research in the program.

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										
Entrance to Exit Exam Improvement 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. Weighted percentage increase in knowledge based on distribution of subfields in the degree plan. American – 60% Comparative -15% International Relations – 15% Policy and Public Administration – 15% Statistics and Research Methods – 15% Direct - Other Target Seventy percent of students will achieve the desired improvement in a subfield exam. The benchmark applies to all five measures.	MET Summary <table><tr><td>American Exit</td><td>89.38%</td></tr><tr><td>IR Exit Exam</td><td>180.50%</td></tr><tr><td>Stats Exit Exam</td><td>129.92%</td></tr><tr><td>Comparative Politics Exit Exam</td><td>115.12%</td></tr><tr><td>Public Administration and Public Policy Exit Exam</td><td>172.45%</td></tr></table> All five areas exceeded the expected levels of improvement. Analysis Changes to the curriculum have been extremely successful in boosting knowledge gained from the beginning to the end of the methods sequence.	American Exit	89.38%	IR Exit Exam	180.50%	Stats Exit Exam	129.92%	Comparative Politics Exit Exam	115.12%	Public Administration and Public Policy Exit Exam	172.45%	Maintain Assessment Strategy We will maintain the current curriculum and assessment. We may increase benchmarks next year of the success continues.
American Exit	89.38%											
IR Exit Exam	180.50%											
Stats Exit Exam	129.92%											
Comparative Politics Exit Exam	115.12%											
Public Administration and Public Policy Exit Exam	172.45%											

Conclusion

Students' performance improved dramatically this year. The amount of knowledge gained over the course of the program has continued to improve in recent years. This shows that past changes in the curriculum in I.R., comparative, and P.A. have been very successful in improving students' overall knowledge gained by the program.