

PROPOSED ASSESSMENT PLAN

Learning objectives

- *Disciplinary knowledge:* Majors in political science will understand fundamental issues in American Government, Political Theory, Public Administration, and International Relations.
- *Analytical skills/Critical thinking:* Students should be able to access a broad range of research material in their field, including both primary and secondary sources. Students should be able to read and critically evaluate literature central to their discipline. Students must demonstrate the ability to write, discuss, and defend a research project in their field based on these research materials.
- *Technical and applied skills:* Students should develop good written and verbal skills. They should be able to conduct research consistent with the practices of the discipline. They should be able to access and use web-based information. They should have familiarity with the disciplinary concepts and vocabulary employed by political scientists.

Assessment Instruments. The assessment plan will use three methods of evaluation.

Disciplinary Knowledge

This will be assessed by majors averaging a 75 percent on the final exams given in the department's foundational courses: Introduction to American Government, Introduction to Political Theory, Introduction to Public Administration, and Introduction to International Relations.

Analytical/Critical Thinking/Technical and Applied Skills

This will be assessed in two ways:

Capstone Course writing sample. A representative sample of the capstone seminar papers of all PSCI seniors enrolled PSCI 390R will be submitted to both the capstone instructor and one other faculty member in Political Science for evaluation (normally, this other faculty member will be the department head, unless he or she is offering a capstone seminar). This representative sample will be scored on a simple three-point scale, with three representing good, two representing acceptable, and one representing unacceptable. Scores will be awarded on five criteria:

- Grammar and writing style
- Ability to present a thesis statement
- Coherence and logic of the argument
- Familiarity with and use of secondary literature; where appropriate, familiarity with and use of primary sources
- Proper use of citations

The overall rating will be the sum of the scores for the five criteria. Our goal is that no student will have an “unacceptable” score in any of the five categories.

Exit Survey. All PSCI students registering for graduation will be administered an exit survey at the time the student meets with the certifying officer for degree certification, the intent of which is to assess student perceptions of the overall learning experience. The exit survey will be mandatory. Results from the exit survey will generate both quantifiable data and qualitative comments and suggestions.

Political Science Program Assessment (GIVEN DURING CERTIFICATION VIA QUALTRICS)

A. Please check the response with which you most agree.

1. My coursework in political science provided a logical, complete, and appropriate course of instruction.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

2. I was satisfied with the quality of my political science instruction.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

3. I received enough personal interaction with the political science faculty, including advising.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

4. I felt like I belonged to a community of Political Science majors. That is, I had the chance to interact with my fellow majors, including but not limited to student organizations.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

5. The political science major improved my writing skills

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

6. The political science major improved my analytical skills

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

7. The political science major improved my research skills

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

8. Political science training will further my career goals

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

B. Please briefly respond to the following:

1. What was the intellectual highlight of the major?

2. What was your favorite course, and why?

3. What was the greatest strength of the program?

4. What was the greatest weakness of the program?

Our expectation is to average an agree score on items 5, 6, 7, and 8.