

Department of Political Science Major Field Assessment Report

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose	Program Intended Outcomes	Assessment Method and Criteria	Assessment Results	Use of Results
<p><u>Mission Statement:</u> Columbus State University is committed to educating students to think critically, work creatively, communicate effectively, and be technologically literate, fostering research, supporting scholarly and creative endeavors, and performing a broad range of service functions to enhance the quality of life in our service area.</p> <p><u>Goal Statement:</u> To provide political science majors with coursework which will provide basic knowledge of governmental procedures and their international equivalents, while fostering the analytical and communication skills necessary for professional employment or graduate education.</p>	<p>Political Science graduates will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate knowledge of the discipline of political science in terms of its history, content, purpose and methodologies; 2. Demonstrate knowledge of the sub-fields of political science (American government, political theory, comparative politics, international relations, public administration) specific to the field; 3. Demonstrate the ability to analyze materials (e.g., date, texts) and to think critically; 4. Demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate both orally and in writing; 5. Be prepared to achieve their personal goals with regard to intellectual and social skills; 6. Be prepared to achieve their personal goals with regard to employment in either the public or private sector, graduate school, or other professional training. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All POLS majors and minors are required to take the Introduction to Political Science course (POLS 2101); addresses Outcomes 1 and 2. 2. All POLS majors must take the Methods of Political Analysis course (POLS 3115); addresses Outcomes 1 and 3. 3. All POLS majors in the BS program are required to take Critical Thinking (PHIL 2106), and this will be required of all POLS majors effective academic year 2004-05; addresses Outcome 3. 4. All upper-division POLS courses require research papers and/or presentations; addresses Outcome 4. 5. Graded assignments in all POLS courses (except POLS 1101) include book reviews, case studies, and/or research papers; addresses Outcomes 3 and 4. 6. An assessment of POLS students and graduates is conducted once every third year through administration of a survey; addresses Outcomes 1-6. 	<p>Interviews with 13 graduating seniors and a survey of 37 POLS juniors and seniors show that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Certain required courses (POLS 2101, for example) must be offered more often than once per year. This is due primarily to the increase in students (from 87 POLS majors in 2002 to 130 presently). 2. The POLS 3115 (Methods) course is demanding, and students should have taken MATH 1127 (Statistics) before attempting POLS 3115. 3. By the senior year, most POLS majors recognize the common bases of the several fields of study within political science. 4. Students are generally pleased with the POLS program at CSU. 5. Students are pleased with new faculty members in the POLS department, and feel that the new faculty members have brought broader expertise (and academic rigor) to the department. 6. Students would like to have more upper-division courses offered in the evenings and in the summer. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The multiple tracks of the POLS major (BA, BS Pre-Law, BS Policy/Behavior) will be consolidated into a single BA track beginning in Academic Year 2004-05. This curriculum combines the most rigorous aspects of the earlier tracks (3 semesters of foreign language, math through statistics, Critical Thinking, and fewer electives outside of POLS). 2. Two new courses, Global Issues (POLS 2401) and Law School: Tactics and Methods (POLS 2150) have been approved by the University Curriculum Committee. 3. Advising has primarily the responsibility of the Department Head. This will be modified, with the DH handling juniors and seniors and other faculty advising freshmen and sophomores. Use of ISIS/CAPP for advisement will be encouraged. 4. One faculty member retired in 2004, and two more will be leaving over the next two years. The new hires offer the opportunity to broaden expertise in the department.