

**Department of Political Science
Major Field Assessment Report
AY 2005-2006**

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. Academic records of students under the original B.A. and B.S. programs were compared with students under the new curriculum introduced in 2004. 2. Graduates are surveyed to assess how well their coursework in this department has prepared them for further education and careers. 3. Students were asked about course offerings and times and what changes would benefit them. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A comparison of students under the original B.A. program (which did not require MATH 1127, (Statistics), showed that those students did not perform as well in POLS 3115 (Methods of Political Analysis) as majors who had taken MATH 1127. 2. Feedback from POLS graduates in law school indicates that the CSU curriculum prepared them well. The one negative report was from a graduate of the MPA program who is now enrolled in a doctoral program; he indicated that he was not prepared for the rigor of the doctoral program. 3. Upper-division courses offered in the evenings have high enrollment. Summer sessions offer the opportunity to introduce new course content; one such course has been established as POLS 2150 (Law School Methods and Tactics). In the summer of 2006 another trial course on civil rights will be offered. In Spring 2007, a course on African politics will be introduced. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MATH 1127 will become a prerequisite for POLS 3115. 2. Evening courses will continue, with POLS 2201 (State and Local Government) and POLS 3146 (Latin American Comparative Government) being offered in Fall 2006. 3. New courses are being developed to broaden the offerings of the department.