

## 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><br/>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><br/>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"> <li>1. Demonstrate knowledge of the discipline of political science in terms of its history, content, purpose and methodologies;</li> <li>2. Demonstrate knowledge of the sub-fields of political science (American government, political theory, comparative politics, international relations, public administration) specific to the field;</li> <li>3. Demonstrate the ability to analyze materials (e.g., date, texts) and to think critically;</li> <li>4. Demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate both orally and in writing;</li> <li>5. Be prepared to achieve their personal goals with regard to intellectual and social skills;</li> <li>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.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Graduation rates of students in the program were compared from AY 2002 to AY 2007.</li> <li>2. Graduates are surveyed to assess how well their coursework in this department has prepared them for further education and careers.</li> <li>3. Students were asked about course offerings and times and what changes would benefit them.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Since AY 2002, the annual number of graduates has risen steadily from 12 to 20 this year. The number of majors in the program has also risen from 77 in Fall 2001 to 124 in Fall 2006.</li> <li>2. Response from students in law school indicates that they were well prepared for the academic rigor required of them.</li> <li>3. Upper-division courses are being taught later in the afternoons and in the evenings for students who have morning work schedules. A bottleneck in the program has been that certain courses required of all majors (POLS 2101, 2201, and 3115) had been offered only once annually.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A request for an additional faculty member has been submitted (but not filled) for the past two years.</li> <li>2. Departmental standards include emphasis on written projects. In the Comparative Government courses, a new emphasis on data analysis has been implemented.</li> <li>3. The three common required courses are now offered at least twice annually. Enrollment in upper-division afternoon and evening courses helps serve the needs of many students.</li> </ol> |