

# Annual Program Assessment Report

Academic Year Assessed: 2020-2021

College: Letters and Science

Department: Political Science

Submitted by: David Parker, Department Head

Assessment reports are to be submitted annually by program/s. The report deadline is October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Program(s) Assessed:**

**Indicate all majors, minors, certificates and/or options that are included in this assessment:**

Majors/Minors/Certificate	Options
Political Science Major and Minor	

## Annual Assessment Process (CHECK OFF LIST)

1. Data are collected as defined by Assessment Plan  
     YES  NO
2. Population or unbiased samples of collected assignments are scored by at least two faculty members using scoring rubrics to ensure inter-rater reliability.  
     YES  NO
3. Areas where the acceptable performance threshold has not been met are highlighted.  
     YES  NO  NA
4. Assessment scores were presented at a program/unit faculty meeting.  
     YES  NO  (E-mailed to faculty)
5. The faculty reviewed the assessment results, and responded accordingly (Check all appropriate lines)
  - Gather additional data to verify or refute the result.
  - Identify potential curriculum changes to try to address the problem
  - Change the acceptable performance threshold, reassess
  - Choose a different assignment to assess the outcome
  - Faculty may reconsider thresholds
  - Evaluate the rubric to assure outcomes meet student skill level
  - Use Bloom’s Taxonomy to consider stronger learning outcomes
  - Choose a different assignment to assess the outcome

**OTHER: Accepted the results as we met our thresholds for all PLOs.**

6. Does your report demonstrate changes made because of previous assessment results (closing the loop)? YES  NO

**1. Assessment Plan, Schedule and Data Source.**

**a. Please provide a multi-year assessment schedule that will show when all program learning outcomes will be assessed, and by what criteria (data). (You may use the table provided, or you may delete and use a different format).**

ASSESSMENT PLANNING CHART					
PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOME	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Data Source*
Disciplinary Knowledge	X				Final Exam/Paper/Project PSCI 210/230/240/250
Analytical Skills and Critical Thinking	X				390R Seminar Paper and Senior Exit Survey
Technical and Applied Skills	X				390R Seminar Paper and Senior Exit Survey

**\*Data sources can be items such as randomly selected student essays or projects, specifically designed exam questions, student presentations or performances, or a final paper. Do not use course evaluations or surveys as primary sources for data collection.**

**b. What are your threshold values for which you demonstrate student achievement?**

Threshold Values		
PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOME	Threshold Value	Data Source
1. Understand fundamental issues in American Government.	Majors average 75% on final exam in PSCI 210	Exam scores from majors
2. Understand fundamental issues in International Relations	Majors average 75% on final exam in PSCI 230	Exam scores from majors
3. Understand fundamental issues in Political Theory	Majors average 75% on final exam in PSCI 240	Exam scores from majors
4. Understand fundamental issues in Public Administration	Majors average 75% on final exam in PSCI 250	Exam scores from majors
5. Coherence and Logic of Argument	No student unacceptable	Capstone Assignment
6. Familiarity with secondary literature and/or Primary Sources	No student unacceptable	Capstone Assignment
7. The political science major Improved my analytical skills	Average score a 2	Senior Exit Survey

8. Political science major improved by research skills	Average score a 2	Senior Exit Survey
9. Present a Thesis Statement	No student unacceptable	Capstone Assignment
10. Grammar and Writing Style	No student unacceptable	Capstone Assignment
11. Proper Use of Citations	No student unacceptable	Capstone Assignment
12. Political science major improved my writing skills	Average score a 2	Senior Exit Survey
13. Political science training will further my career goals	Average score a 2	Senior Exit Survey

## 2. What Was Done

a) Was the completed assessment consistent with the plan provided? YES \_\_\_X\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

b) Please provide a rubric that demonstrates how your data was evaluated.

Indicator	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Threshold Value
	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Good	Excellent	
<b>PLO 1: Demonstrate Disciplinary Knowledge</b>					
Understand fundamental issues in American Government	NA	NA	NA	NA	Majors Average 75% in final exam of PSCI 210
Understand fundamental issues in International Relations	NA	NA	NA	NA	Majors Average 75% in final exam of PSCI 230
Understand fundamental issues in Political Theory	NA	NA	NA	NA	Majors Average 75% in final exam of PSCI 250
Understand fundamental issues in	NA	NA	NA	NA	Majors Average 75% in

Public  
Administration

final exam  
of PSCI  
240

**PLO 2:  
Analytical  
Skills/Critical  
Thinking**

Coherence and logic of argument	No clear argument is made	An argument is made but it is not clear or concise	Argument is coherent and logically sequenced	Argument is made in a logic sequence with clear transitions and hypotheses laid out precisely	No student in the unacceptable category
Familiarity with secondary literature and/or Primary Sources	Secondary literature is not communicated	Secondary literature is reviewed but superficially	Secondary literature is well-reviewed in a logic sequence	Secondary literature is well-reviewed, and organizes the literature conceptually and thematically	No student in the unacceptable category
The political science major Improved my analytical skills	NA	NA	NA	NA	Average a score of 2 on the Senior Exit Survey
Political science major improved by research skills	NA	NA	NA	NA	Average a score of 2 on the Senior Exit Survey

**PLO 3:  
Technical and  
Applied Skills**

Present a Thesis Statement	No thesis statement	Thesis statement is present	Thesis statement is clear and concise	Thesis statement is clear, concise, and writing in an interesting voice	No student in the unacceptable category
Grammar and Writing Style	Lacks complete sentences/multiple grammar errors	Sentences are complete, few errors in punctuation	No errors in grammar or sentence structure	Clear, concise, lively writing	No student in the unacceptable category

	No evidence of proper conventions of citations	Citations are generally used where appropriate	Arguments are appropriately cited and a consistent style of citation is employed	Citations are complete and without error	No student in the unacceptable category
Proper Use of Citations					Average a score of 2 on the Senior Exit Survey
Political science major improved my writing skills	NA	NA	NA	NA	Average a score of 2 on the Senior Exit Survey
Political science training will further my career goals	NA	NA	NA	NA	Average a score of 2 on the Senior Exit Survey

### 3. How Data Were Collected

a) How were data collected? (Please include method of collection and sample size).

Department head gathered final exam grades from instructor of record for PSCI 2230/250 (Fall), PSCI 240 (Spring), and PSCI 210 (Fall and Spring). He then computed the average major grades in each course to determine if outcome was met.

Senior exit surveys were administered by Department Head via Qualtrics for all graduating seniors. Graduating seniors were provided with Qualtrics link by Department Head prior to graduation certification meeting. 42 students completed the survey out of 45 students graduating (93% completion rate).

PSCI 390R capstone papers from spring and fall semester were gathered from instructor of record by Department Head. 6 papers chosen at random from fall course and 5 at random from spring course by the instructor. Fall enrollment was 27, spring was 24.

b) Explain the assessment process, and who participated in the analysis of the data.

Senior exit survey and final exam grades were compiled and analyzed by Department Head. Assessment of capstone assignments according to the rubric was done by Paul Lachapelle and the Department Head independently. The Department Head then compiled and analyzed the results.

### 4. What Was Learned

Based on the analysis of the data, and compared to the threshold values provided, what was learned from the assessment?

a) Areas of strength

**PL01: Demonstration of Disciplinary Knowledge**

Department has achieved PLO thresholds with our majors achieving a grade of 75% or higher in the final exam (or other cumulative assessment) in across all five classes assessed (PSCI 230/PSCI 250 (fall); PSCI 240 (Fall and Spring); and PSCI 210 (Fall and Spring)).

**PLO2: Analytical and Critical Thinking Skills.**

Department achieved PLO thresholds for Senior Exit Survey questions on analytical skills and research skills (scores of 2.0 or less on both).

Department achieved PLO thresholds for analytical skills and research skills on the capstone project (no student rated unacceptable).

**PLO3: Technical and Applied Skills**

Department achieved threshold values of 2.0 or less on senior exit survey questions pertaining to career goals and writing skills.

Department achieved PLO thresholds for technical and applied skills on the capstone project (no student rated unacceptable).

**b) Areas that need improvement**

None. We achieved our assessment goals.

## **5. How We Responded**

**a) Describe how “What Was Learned” was communicated to the department, or program faculty. Was there a forum for faculty to provide feedback and recommendations?**

Results communicated to department in a report which was e-mailed to them. They were asked for feedback and recommendations.

**b) Based on the faculty responses, will there any curricular or assessment changes (such as plans for measurable improvements, or realignment of learning outcomes)?**

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_X\_\_\_

No need for changes as we met all our assessment outcomes. We are discussing ways to make clearer connections to research throughout our courses.

**c) When will the changes be next assessed?**

**N/A**

## **14. Closing the Loop**

**a) Based on assessment from previous years, can you demonstrate program level changes that have led to outcome improvements?**

**This is our first year under the new assessment plan. No changes are necessary given that we have achieved our PLO thresholds in all cases.**

Submit report to [programassessment@montana.edu](mailto:programassessment@montana.edu)