

Assessment Plan

Western Michigan University

Political Science

Mission Statement: Our program seeks to provide students with a background in political science that permits them to make frequent use of their education not only when they take political action or pursue careers concerned with politics, but also when they think about current domestic and international politics, other cultures and of themselves as global citizens. Students who take even one course in our department should leave with a better sense of themselves as political actors along with skills that will help them cultivate that sense as they mature. Each concentration in the department offers a unique substantive focus to complement this mission ? comparative and international politics, American public policy, public law -- but the overall mission for each concentration is the same. Our graduate program builds on this background to prepare students for professional careers with in the scholarly community, as teachers and researchers, or within public or private agencies, as program managers, consultants or policy analysts

Outcome: A.1.1 Evaluate information critically

Students will be able to critically evaluate information in the popular and scholarly literature related to politics and government

- Track:** American Public Policy Concentration in Political Science
 International and Comparative Politics Concentration in Political Science
 Public Law Concentration in Political Science
 Secondary Education Major in Political Science
 Secondary Education Minor in Political Science
 Standard Major in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2004

End Date: 06/30/2009

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2009/10

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Course or exam questions	At least 70% of students will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" for this learning outcome in 300 and 400 level classes	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes
Writing portfolios	At least 70% of students will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" in 300 and 400 level classes	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes
Senior/alumni survey Q4 Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	At least 80% of seniors and alumni will agree or strongly agree with the statement "Courses in Political Science helped me understand more clearly the articles I read in the newspaper or the news programs that I see on television or hear on the radio"	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes

Outcome: A.1.2 Participate in politics

Students will participate in public life

- Track:** American Public Policy Concentration in Political Science
 International and Comparative Politics Concentration in Political Science
 Public Law Concentration in Political Science
 Secondary Education Major in Political Science
 Secondary Education Minor in Political Science
 Standard Major in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2004

End Date: 06/30/2009

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2009/10

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Senior/alumni survey Q10-Q16 Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	90% of seniors and alumni will indicate that are registered to vote and 80% will indicate that they contribute to political campaigns or political action committees, are member of an interest group or active in a political party, or have contacted an elected official in their area	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes

Outcome: A.1.3 Appreciate cross-national differences

Students will appreciate the differences in culture, values and interests of their home and foreign countries

Track: International and Comparative Politics Concentration in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2004

End Date: 05/30/2008

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2009/10

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Course or exam questions	At least 70% of students will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" for this learning outcome in 300 and 400 level classes	Beginning Fall 2005	Yes
Senior/alumni survey Q7 Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	At least 80% of seniors and alumni in the International and Comparative concentration will agree or strongly agree with the statement "Courses in Political Science encouraged my tolerance of political, ideological, religious, and cultural differences"	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes

Outcome: A.2.1 Recognize alternative world views

Students will recognize and evaluate different "world views" in understanding the causes of global problems and the conduct of policy making in international relations

Track: International and Comparative Politics Concentration in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2004

End Date: 05/30/2008

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2009/10

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Course or exam questions	At least 70% of students will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" for this learning outcome in 300 and 400 level classes	Beginning Fall 2005	Yes
Senior/alumni survey Q8 Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	At least 80% of seniors and alumni in the International and Comparative concentration will agree or strongly agree with the statement "Courses in Political Science taught me how to see political issues from more than one perspective"	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes

Outcome: A.2.2 Understand legal norms

Students will develop an understanding of norms and values unique to law and the legal system

Track: Public Law Concentration in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2004

End Date: 05/30/2008

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2009/10

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Course or exam questions Assessment Method Category: Course-Embedded Measure	At least 70% of students will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" for this learning outcome in 300 and 400 level classes	Beginning Fall 2005	Yes

Outcome: A.2.3 Distinguish normative and empirical judgements

Students will be reflective and self-conscious in their normative judgments about political choices and policy alternatives

Track: American Public Policy Concentration in Political Science

International and Comparative Politics Concentration in Political Science

Public Law Concentration in Political Science

Secondary Education Major in Political Science

Secondary Education Minor in Political Science

Standard Major in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2004

End Date: 05/30/2008

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2009/10

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Course or exam questions	At least 70% of students will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" for this learning outcome in 300 and 400 level classes	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Writing portfolios	At least 70% of senior student portfolios will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" under the criteria "Explains normative implications of findings or conclusions"	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes

Outcome: A.3.1 Understand the American legal system

Students will develop a familiarity with the history and development of the American legal system and a thorough understanding of the American legal culture

Track: Public Law Concentration in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2004

End Date: 05/30/2008

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2009/10

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Course or exam questions	At least 70% of students will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" for this learning outcome in 300 and 400 level classes	Beginning Fall 2006	Yes

Outcome: A.3.2 Understand public policy choices

Students will develop improved understanding of public policy choices involving the federal budget, macroeconomic policy, regulation, and income and wealth inequality

Track: American Public Policy Concentration in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2004

End Date: 05/30/2008

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2009/10

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Course or exam questions	At least 70% of students will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" for this learning outcome in 300 and 400 level classes	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes
Writing portfolios	At least 70% of senior American Public Policy student portfolios will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" under the criteria "Demonstrates substantive grasp of the federal budget, macroeconomic policy, regulation and income and wealth inequality"	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Senior/alumni survey Q5 Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	At least 80% of seniors and alumni in the Public Policy concentration will agree or strongly agree with the statement "Courses in Political Science taught met how to evaluate policy alternatives"	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes

Outcome: A.3.3 Understand diversity in cultures and governance

Students will gain an improved understanding of the diversity in cultures, perspectives, interests and governing arrangements around the world, as well as the sources of conflict and mechanisms of cooperation

Track: International and Comparative Politics Concentration in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2004

End Date: 05/30/2008

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2009/10

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Course or exam questions	At least 70% of students will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" for this learning outcome in 300 and 400 level classes	Beginning Spring, 2005	Yes
Senior/alumni survey Q3 Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	At least 80% of students in the International and Comparative Politics concentration will agree or strongly agree with the statement "Courses in Political Science familiarized me with political systems outside of the United States"	Beginning Fall 2005	Yes
Writing portfolios	At least 70% of senior International and Comparative student portfolios will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" under the criteria "Introduces alternative interpretations or points of view"	Beginning Fall 2005	Yes

Outcome: A.3.4 Understand the role of government

Students will understand the role government plays in their everyday lives and how individuals and groups participate in politics

Track: American Public Policy Concentration in Political Science
International and Comparative Politics Concentration in Political Science
Public Law Concentration in Political Science
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Secondary Education Minor in Political Science
Standard Major in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2004

End Date: 05/30/2008

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2009/10

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Course or exam questions	At least 70% of students will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" for this learning outcome in 300 and 400 level classes	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes
Writing portfolios	At least 70% of senior International and Comparative student portfolios will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" under the criteria "Explains significance or relevance of work"	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes
Senior/alumni surveys Q1 Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	At least 80% of students will agree or strongly agree with the statement "Courses in Political Science helped me to understand the part government plays in my everyday life"	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes
Senior/alumni surveys Q2 Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	At least 80% of students will agree or strongly agree with the statement " Courses in Political Science showed me how individuals can participate in the political process."	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes

Outcome: A.3.5 Understand the link between political science and other disciplines

Students will be familiar with the ways that the study of political science is related to other social sciences and the humanities

- Track:** American Public Policy Concentration in Political Science
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 Secondary Education Minor in Political Science
 Standard Major in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2004

End Date: 05/30/2008

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2009/10

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Course or exam questions	At least 70% of students will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" for this learning outcome in 300 and 400 level classes	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes
Senior/alumni survey Q9 Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	At least 80% of students will agree or strongly agree with the statement "Courses in Political Science encouraged me to consider how political science is	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
	related to other disciplines in the social sciences and humanities."		

Outcome: A.4.1 Develop writing skills

Students will develop writing skills

- Track:** American Public Policy Concentration in Political Science
 International and Comparative Politics Concentration in Political Science
 Public Law Concentration in Political Science
 Secondary Education Major in Political Science
 Secondary Education Minor in Political Science
 Standard Major in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2004

End Date: 05/30/2008

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2009/10

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Writing portfolios	At least 70% of all portfolios prepared by seniors will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" under the criterias "Organization" "Grammar" and "Citation and references"	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes
Course or exam questions	At least 70% of students will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" in 300 and 400 level classes	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes
Senior/alumni survey Q19 Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	At least 80% of seniors and alumni will agree with the statement: "Coursework in Political Science helped me to learn to write clearly"	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes

Outcome: A.4.2 Develop public speaking skills

Students will develop public speaking skills

- Track:** American Public Policy Concentration in Political Science
 International and Comparative Politics Concentration in Political Science
 Public Law Concentration in Political Science
 Secondary Education Major in Political Science
 Secondary Education Minor in Political Science
 Standard Major in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2004

End Date: 05/31/2008

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2009/10

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Senior/alumni survey Q6 Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	At least 80% of survey students and alumni will agree or strongly agree with the statement "Courses in Political Science help me to develop communication skills"	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes

Outcome: A.5.1 Develop research skills

Students will develop research skills including research design, data collection and data analysis.

Track: American Public Policy Concentration in Political Science
 International and Comparative Politics Concentration in Political Science
 Public Law Concentration in Political Science
 Secondary Education Major in Political Science
 Secondary Education Minor in Political Science
 Standard Major in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2004

End Date: 05/31/2008

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2009/10

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Writing portfolios	At least 70% of all portfolios will be evaluated as "Adequate" or "Superior" under the criteria "Introduces Appropriate Data and Methods"	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes
Course or exam questions	At least 70% of students will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" for this learning outcome in 300 and 400 level classes	Beginning Fall 2005	Yes
Senior/alumni survey (Q17a-Q17c) Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	At least 80% of students agree or strongly agree with the statements: "Political Science coursework helped me to develop skills to search for information from..." the library, the internet, and the news media.	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes
Senior/alumni survey (Q18) Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	At least 80% of seniors and alumni will agree or strongly agree with the statement "My coursework helped me to develop skills related to data collection and analysis"	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes

Outcome: A.5.2 Develop legal research skills

Students will develop the capacity to understand and apply information contained in court opinions and law review articles.

Track: Public Law Concentration in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2004

End Date: 06/30/2009

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2009/10

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Course and exam questions	At least 70% of students will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" in 400 level classes	Beginning Fall 2005	Yes
Senior/alumni survey Q17d Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	At least 80% of survey respondents who are in the Public Law concentration will agree or strongly agree with the statement "My coursework helped me develop skills to search for information from specialized sources of information such as legal databases"	Beginning Spring 2005	Yes

Outcome: A.5.3 Apply the comparative method

Students will learn to apply the comparative method in the analysis of modern politics, drawing on a repertoire of significant empirical cases when making systematic comparisons between politics in different countries

Track: International and Comparative Politics Concentration in Political Science

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Course/exam questions	At least 70% of students will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" in 300 and 400 level classes	Beginning Fall 2005	Yes
Writing portfolios	At least 70% of portfolios in the concentration will be evaluated as "Superior" or "Adequate" under the criteria "Introduces Appropriate Data and Methods"	Beginning Spring 2006	Yes

Outcome: B.1.1 Critically evaluate scholarly literature

Graduate students will be able to critically evaluate information in the popular and scholarly literature related to politics and government

Track: M.A. in Political Science

PhD in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2005

End Date: 05/31/2008

Outcome Status: Inactive

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2007/8

Outcome: B.2.1 Recognize alternative world views

Graduate students will recognize and evaluate different world views in understanding the causes of global problems and the conduct of policy making in international relations

Track: M.A. in Political Science
Master of Development Administration (MDA)
PhD in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2005

End Date: 05/31/2008

Outcome Status: Inactive

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2007/8

Outcome: B.2.2 Distinguishing normative and empirical judgements

Graduate students will be reflective and self-conscious in their normative judgments about political choices and policy alternatives

Track: M.A. in Political Science
Master of Development Administration (MDA)
PhD in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2005

End Date: 05/31/2008

Outcome Status: Inactive

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2007/8

Outcome: B.3.1 Develop a substantive knowledge of political science

Graduate students will gain a mastery of the literature and concepts of two fields in Political Science (American Politics, Comparative Politics, or Political Theory)

Track: M.A. in Political Science
PhD in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2005

End Date: 05/30/2008

Outcome Status: Inactive

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2007/8

Outcome: B.4.1 Assess management strategies

Graduate students will be able to assess the management strategies and likely impacts of development programs and projects

Track: Master of Development Administration (MDA)

Start Date: 06/01/2005

End Date: 05/30/2008

Outcome Status: Inactive

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2007/8

Outcome: B.5.1 Develop writing skills

Students will develop writing skills

Track: M.A. in Political Science
Master of Development Administration (MDA)
PhD in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2005

End Date: 05/30/2008

Outcome Status: Inactive

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2007/8

Outcome: B.5.2 Develop teaching skills

Graduate students will develop teaching skills

Track: M.A. in Political Science
PhD in Political Science

Outcome Status: Inactive

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2007/8

Outcome: B.6.1 Pursue grant funding

Doctoral students will pursue grant funding opportunities

Track: PhD in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2005

End Date: 05/31/2008

Outcome Status: Inactive

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2007/8

Outcome: B.6.2 Attend and present at conferences

Graduate students will present papers or posters at regional and national meetings

Track: M.A. in Political Science

PhD in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2005

End Date: 05/30/2008

Outcome Status: Inactive

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2007/8

Outcome: B.7.1 Develop research skills

Graduate students will develop research skills including research design, data collection, and data analysis

Track: M.A. in Political Science

Master of Development Administration (MDA)

PhD in Political Science

Start Date: 06/01/2005

End Date: 05/31/2008

Outcome Status: Inactive

Assessment Evaluation: Department Assessment Committee to review plan in 2007/8