



Political Science | 2015-2016 Assessment Plan

1. Please review last year’s assessment results (2014-2015) with the faculty in your program. How does your program plan to take these results into consideration in future programmatic planning?

During our most recent (09/11/2015) meeting we reviewed and discussed results of the last year’s embedded assessments in the core required political science courses. The consensus was that substantial proportion of our students are consistently meeting our program’s learning objectives and outcomes.

However, during our previous discussions of the assessment results and instrument, we discovered that our program lacked a mechanism for an integrative learning experience to assist political science students in their post-college transition. As a result, we developed a new capstone course (in partnership with our students), in which, after initial review of our discipline, students will embark on the advanced research and service-learning projects dealing with “big questions” of our field. Each student will also create transitional plan (in consultation with assigned professor) and create the timeline for its completion. Once the course becomes integral part of our curriculum and starts being offered consistently, we will most likely assess our program by looking at the output political science students produced in the capstone course.

2. Which outcome will you assess this year (2015-2016)?

For American politics content courses:

Learning Outcome	Learning outcome is not met (Level One)	Learning outcome is met (Level Two)	Learning outcome is exceeded (Level Three)
Students will demonstrate knowledge of and ability to analyze U.S. government institutions, political processes, and behavior.			
Students will exhibit an ability to evaluate political institutions and processes from the perspective of democratic principles, including majority politics, the protection of minority rights, and the value of due process.			
Students will show an ability to think critically and a capacity to use political science research. This			

includes an understanding of social science research methods and elementary statistical concepts, and the ability to use professional resources such as journals, indexes, and government documents.			
Students will be able to qualify for graduate study in political science, public policy, public administration, law, international affairs, or related fields or to qualify for entry level employment requiring competence in governmental and political processes, or for teaching government.			
Students will demonstrate ability to write clearly and effectively.			

For international politics content courses:

Learning Outcome	Learning outcome is not met (Level One)	Learning outcome is met (Level Two)	Learning outcome is exceeded (Level Three)
Students will exhibit knowledge of and ability to analyze government institutions, political processes, and behavior in select Western and non-Western countries.			
Students will show an ability to evaluate variables essential for transition to and consolidation of democracy, including historical, institutional, political cultural, and behavioral factors, as well as structural obstacles to democratization.			
Students will demonstrate an ability to think critically and a capacity to use political science research. This includes an understanding of social science research methods and elementary statistical concepts, and the ability to use professional resources such as journals, indexes, and government documents.			
Students will be able to qualify for entry level employment requiring competence in governmental and political processes.			

For political theory content courses:

Learning Outcome	Learning outcome is not met (Level One)	Learning outcome is met (Level Two)	Learning outcome is exceeded (Level Three)
Students will exhibit knowledge of and ability to analyze and critique the history of political theory, including ancient, modern and contemporary thinkers			
Students will demonstrate an ability to approach political questions from a theoretical and historical perspective, including discussing questions of method, form and context			
Students will show an ability to think critically and a capacity to use political theory research. This includes an understanding of the core questions and approaches, as well as key figures in political theory as a part of political science			
Students will be able to qualify for entry level employment requiring competence in governmental and political processes.			

3. Which technique will you use to assess this outcome?

We routinely perform embedded assessments of all written work students produce in our required UL courses for the major (research papers, debate papers, reaction papers, policy memoranda, legal briefs, etc.). It is based on the rubric (see above) that is applied to all core courses during a given semester. Each political science faculty member is well versed in our assessment procedures by now and the process is well established as part of our program.

4. Which course or group of students will you assess on the outcome chosen above and when?

Every semester we collect data (see above) on all political science students (majors only) taking required UL political science classes.

In the Fall our assessed classes include:

- a. Constitutional Law
- b. Political Theory
- c. Political Behavior
- d. Comparative Politics

In the Spring, our assessed classes are:

- a. American Political Thought
- b. Constitutional Law
- c. Congress

These classes, collectively, represent all required political science classes, so we are assessing most our students in any given academic year.

However, in the future, we plan to assess political science students taking our required capstone in Political Science course.