



Political Science | 2016-2017 Assessment Report

1. Please give a brief overview of the assessment data you collected this year.

Please see tables below for the annual results of our embedded assessments. Once again, the tables demonstrate that the vast majority of political science majors meet the basic learning outcomes in all three categories of required UL courses with about a third of them exceeding the basic benchmarks and about 5-10 percent failing to meet our learning outcomes.

In each upper-level required political science class, assessment was based on the completion of research writing assignments and papers, reflection papers, in-class and take-home exercises and activities, class participation, class presentations, analysis of primary sources, and content of course blogs.

This academic year, we assessed the following outcomes (depending on the subject matter of assessed courses):

For American politics content courses (in 2016-2017 academic year, these courses included Pol Sci 320: Constitutional Law, Pol Sci 318: Political Behavior, and Pol Sci 316: Congress):

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.	5	34	10
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.	5	34	10
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.	5	32	12
Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the demographic diversity of the US and the problems faced by different demographic groups in the American democracy.	1*	30*	9*

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.	5	33	11
Students will demonstrate ability to write clearly and effectively.	4	33	12

*Diversity learning outcome was not assessed in Constitutional Law class due to the nature of that sub-field.

For international politics content courses (in 2016-2017 academic year, these courses included 2 sections of Pol Sci 351: Comparative Politics and Pol Sci 370: Foreign and Defense Policies):

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.	1	43	11
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.	1	42	12
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.	2	41	12
Students will be able to describe different democratic institutional arrangements, changes in traditional national identities (due to migration, growing ethnic and racial diversity and gender equality), and existing ideological diversity in a variety of global settings.	2*	33*	6*
Students will be able to qualify for entry level employment requiring competence in governmental and political processes.	0	37	18
Students will demonstrate the ability to write clearly and effectively.	3	40	12

*Diversity learning outcome was not assessed in Foreign and Defense class due to the nature of that class, being situated on the border of American and International Politics subfields.

For political theory content courses we assessed Pol Sci 340: Political Theory and Pol Sci 349: American Political Thought:

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	1	19	4
Students will demonstrate an ability to approach political questions from a theoretical and historical perspective, including discussing questions of method, form and context	3	15	6
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	2	14	8
Students will show an understanding of how different contemporary and historical political issues are assessed by different philosophical and ideological traditions.	3	18	3
Students will be able to qualify for entry level employment requiring competence in governmental and political processes.	2	17	5
Students will demonstrate the ability to write clearly and effectively.	6	14	4

We performed embedded assessments of all written and oral work students produced in our required UL courses for the major (research papers, debate papers, class blogs, reaction papers, policy memoranda, legal briefs, exercises, presentations, class participation, etc.). We assessed enrolled political science majors only.

These classes, collectively, represent all required Political Science classes taught during the past academic year, so we have assessed most of our students this academic year.

2. How will you use what you've learned from the data that was collected?

This year, based on our previous assessment efforts, we tried to measure one more learning outcome that our program lists as its programmatic learning goal – namely, teaching diversity to our students. In political science, we conceive diversity both in terms of traditional ethnic and racial aspects of this concept and in terms of political and ideological diversity. While an

addition of a new category to assess worked for some required classes, it did not fit neatly in some of the required classes in the American Politics category (especially Constitutional Law and Foreign & Defense Policies, a course on the border between American and International Politics). We are scheduled to hold our Fall faculty meeting in September and will discuss the results then to improve our measurements in this category.

During 2016-2017 academic year, our program underwent successful self-study and programmatic review that demonstrated that we have rigorous and comprehensive curriculum as well as systematic and functional programmatic assessment process. In general, as a program, we are happy with our efforts to maintain solid disciplinary curriculum and promote success of our students as they become professionals in the field. A vast majority of our students are successful after graduating from UWGB with BA degree in Political Science.