



## Political Science | 2014-2015 Assessment Report

**1. Please give a brief overview of the assessment data you collected this year. This can be in any form you feel is appropriate, such as a table, a short narrative of results, statistical analysis, highlighting findings that were of particular interest, etc. You will, however, likely want to submit results for each learning outcome you assessed this year individually.**

Please see tables below for the annual results of our assessments. The tables demonstrate that the vast majority of our students meet the basic learning outcomes in all three categories of required UL courses with about a third of them exceeding the basic benchmarks, nearly two-thirds meeting the basic benchmarks, and approximately 1 percent failing to meet our learning outcomes.

This academic year, we assessed the following outcomes (depending on the content of assessed courses).

For American politics content courses (in the 2014-2015 academic year, these courses included Pol Sci 318: Political Behavior, Pol Sci 316: Congress, and Pol Sci 320: Constitutional Law) numbers are as follows:

<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Learning outcome is not met (Level One)</b>	<b>Learning outcome is met (Level Two)</b>	<b>Learning outcome is exceeded (Level Three)</b>
<b>Students will demonstrate knowledge of and ability to analyze U.S. government institutions, political processes, and behavior.</b>	1	18	11
<b>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.</b>	1	18	11
<b>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.</b>	1	18	8
<b>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.</b>	2	17	11
<b>Students will demonstrate ability to write clearly and effectively.</b>	1	18	11

For international politics content courses (in the 2014-2015 academic year, these courses included Pol Sci 351: Comparative Politics) the numbers are as follows:

<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Learning outcome is not met (Level One)</b>	<b>Learning outcome is met (Level Two)</b>	<b>Learning outcome is exceeded (Level Three)</b>
Students will exhibit knowledge of and ability to analyze government institutions, political processes, and behavior in select Western and non-Western countries.	1	7	4
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	7	4
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	6	4
Students will be able to qualify for entry level employment requiring competence in governmental and political processes.	2	6	4

For political theory content courses (in the 2014-2015 academic year, these courses included Pol Sci 349: American Political Thought and Pol Sci 340: Political Theory) the numbers are as follows:

<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Learning outcome is not met (Level One)</b>	<b>Learning outcome is met (Level Two)</b>	<b>Learning outcome is exceeded (Level Three)</b>
Students will exhibit knowledge of and ability to analyze and critique the history of political theory, including ancient, modern and contemporary thinkers.	0	14	16
Students will demonstrate an ability to approach political questions from a theoretical and historical perspective, including discussing questions of method, form and context.	4	21	5
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.	1	20	9
Students will be able to qualify for entry level employment requiring competence in governmental and political processes.	1	12	17

2. How will you use what you’ve learned from the data that was collected? Some examples are: particular improvements to the curriculum, incorporation of a different pedagogy, a change in assessment plan for the following year in order to obtain more specific feedback, better information or a better response rate, a determined need for faculty development in a particular area, better career alignment, a faculty retreat to discuss the data and how best to use it, etc.

Similar to previous semesters, we are scheduled to hold a faculty meeting in September to discuss the results and to determine what to do with the collected data. Fewer students have not met expectations than in past academic years, but it is still important to determine why these individuals might be failing in our program. It also might be helpful to continue to explore ways to highlight truly exceptional student achievement. Suggestions have included adding a larger number of categories to the current scale. Given the impending implementation of a senior seminar in Political Science, it also may be possible to further assess students in this course.