

Assurance of Student Learning 2018-2019	
PCAL	Political Science
Political Science 686	

Use this page to list learning outcomes, measurements, and summarize results for your program. Detailed information must be completed in the subsequent pages.

Student Learning Outcome 1: Show proficiency in the knowledge of the core content of political science gained in required courses including American National Government, the required course in either International Relations or Comparative Politics, and three required courses chosen from International Relations, Comparative Politics, Concepts in Political Science, Research Methodology, and Political Theory.

Instrument 1	Direct: Analysis of student exams and papers.
Instrument 2	
Instrument 3	

Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 1.	Met	Not Met
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Student Learning Outcome 2: Understand how formal political institutions function at international, federal, state, and/or local levels.

Instrument 1	Direct: Analysis of student papers from senior seminar.
Instrument 2	
Instrument 3	

Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 2.	Met	Not Met
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Student Learning Outcome 3: Critically analyze how institutions and behavior influence each other to produce political and policy outcomes.

Instrument 1	Direct: Analysis of student papers from senior seminar
Instrument 2	
Instrument 3	

Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 3.	Met	Not Met
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Program Summary (Briefly summarize the action and follow up items from your detailed responses on subsequent pages.)

The program does seem to be providing the fundamental tools for students to effectively analyze political phenomena and identify linkages between institutions, political behavior, and policy outcomes. However, it has been many years since the SLOs have been updated and we no longer have a mechanism in place to effectively measure SLO #1. It is time to evaluate and edit SLOs to ensure that they are in alignment with the program curriculum. We have therefore identified the following SLOs for subsequent review cycles:

Student Learning Outcome 1: Illustrate the role of social, economic and political factors in shaping political problems.

Student Learning Outcome 2: Connect the role of formal and informal political actors in shaping political discourse.

Student Learning Outcome 3: Assess the importance of traditional political institutions.

We will also include a rubric for subsequent review cycles.

Student Learning Outcome 1

Student Learning Outcome	Show proficiency in the knowledge of the core content of political science gained in required courses including American National Government, the required course in either International Relations or Comparative Politics, and three required courses chosen from International Relations, Comparative Politics, Concepts in Political Science, Research Methodology, and Political Theory.		
Measurement Instrument 1	Direct measure had been exams given during the senior seminar. The format of senior seminar was changed about 10 years ago and exams no longer are given to measure this SLO. There is currently no direct measurement of this SLO.		
Criteria for Student Success	Students achieving 70% on each of the exams.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	N/A	Percent of Program Achieving Target	N/A
Methods	When the exams existed, all students were tested.		
Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 1.			Met
Actions (Describe the decision-making process and actions planned for program improvement. The actions should include a timeline.)			
We are meeting in February and March to develop a new SLO and an appropriate measurement to test it.			
Follow-Up (Provide your timeline for follow-up. If follow-up has occurred, describe how the actions above have resulted in program improvement.)			

Student Learning Outcome 2

Student Learning Outcome	Understand how formal political institutions function at international, federal, state, and/or local levels.		
Measurement Instrument 1	Analysis of student papers from senior seminar.		
Criteria for Student Success	Students score at 6.0 on the rubric.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	70% of students average 3.0 on the rubric.	Percent of Program Achieving Target	73%
Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 2.			Met Not Met
Actions (Describe the decision-making process and actions planned for program improvement. The actions should include a timeline.)			
While most students are able to draw linkages at a reasonably high level, there is room for them to do a better job to utilize evidence to support their arguments. It is likely time to evaluate the program's curriculum to match courses more explicitly with desired learning outcomes. The plan is to conduct a curriculum review in 2020-21 to determine if changes need to be made.			
Follow-Up (Provide your timeline for follow-up. If follow-up has occurred, describe how the actions above have resulted in program improvement.)			
Review SLO and rubric to ensure that they align with core competencies identified by the College. The SLO tends to overlap with SLO #3. A greater distinction can be made between the SLOs. The plan is to review the SLOs at the Departmental Meetings in February and March to be utilized in the 2019-20 assessment process.			

Student Learning Outcome 3

Student Learning Outcome	Critically analyze how institutions and behavior influence each other to produce political and policy outcomes.		
Measurement Instrument 1	Analysis of student papers from senior seminar.		
Criteria for Student Success	Students score at 6.0 on the rubric.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	70%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	73%
Methods	One of three writing assignments from senior seminar was identified to serve as artifact/instrument. For the selected artifact, 1 out 4 papers were randomly selected for review. A two person panel reviewed the instrument according to a rubric.		
Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 3.			Met Not Met
Actions (Describe the decision-making process and actions planned for program improvement. The actions should include a timeline.)			

Students are able to identify relationships between institutions and individual behavior, but they can more effectively capture how they shape policy outputs. It is likely time to evaluate the program's curriculum to match courses more explicitly with desired learning outcomes. The plan is to conduct a curriculum review in 2020-21 to determine if changes need to be made.

Follow-Up: Review SLO and rubric to ensure that they align with core competencies identified by the College. The SLO tends to overlap with SLO #2. A greater distinction can be made between the SLOs. The plan is to review the SLOs at the Departmental Meetings in February and March to be utilized in the 2019-20 assessment process.