Department of Political Science: Master Assessment Plan

**Department:** Political Science

**Assessment Coordinator:** Amir Abedi and Shirin Deylami

**Departmental Mission:**

In support of the mission of Western Washington University and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences the Department of Political Science is committed to providing a high quality educational experience for undergraduate students. The department contributes to the overall mission of the University through research, scholarship, and community service. The Political Science Department provides a solid grounding in four fields of Political Science: American politics and policy, international relations, comparative politics, and political theory. The mission of the Department is to train students to think critically and independently about politics and public life. Courses provide an understanding of political concepts and the organization and functioning of political systems. Given this mission the Department is committed to achieving eight specific goals that promote a deep understanding of the practice of politics.

**Degree: Political Science BA**

**Departmental Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon graduation, political science majors will be able to

1. possess substantive knowledge in the discipline
2. exhibit analytical skills in interpreting data
3. demonstrate writing competence
4. engage in independent research
5. demonstrate critical, independent thinking about politics and public life

**Degree: Political Science/Economics BA**

**Student Learning Outcome (in addition to 1-5):**

6. assess the relationship between public policy choices and economic outcomes and the relationship between economic policies and their political consequences

**Degree: Political Science Politics/Philosophy/Economics BA**

**Student Learning Outcome (in addition to 1-5 and 6):**

7. describe and apply the arguments of moral, ethical, and political philosophy and the philosophy of knowledge

**Degree: Political Science/Social Studies BA**

**Student Learning Outcome (in addition to 1-5):**

8. convey substantive knowledge using reading and written and oral communication
**GUR Student Learning Outcomes:**

6. Recognize the rights, responsibilities, and privileges of participating in, and contributing as a citizen in, a diverse society.

7. Understand and evaluate assumptions, values, and beliefs in context of diverse local, national, and global communities.

**Student Learning Objectives Assessed:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measures</th>
<th>SLO’s Assessed</th>
<th>Use of the Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams, papers, presentations and projects in 100-400 level courses</td>
<td>1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8</td>
<td>Summaries of student performance, relative to the SLO’s, are reported annually to the Chair/assessment coordinator by faculty teaching political science courses in the annual assessment meeting. The Chair/assessment coordinator summarizes responses for the department, which then leads to the development of a departmental improvement plan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams, papers, presentations and projects in 400-level senior seminar courses.</td>
<td>1,2,3,4,5</td>
<td>Summaries of student performance, relative to the SLO’s, are reported annually to the Chair/assessment coordinator by faculty teaching senior seminars in the annual assessment meeting. The Chair/assessment coordinator summarizes responses for the department, which then leads to the development of a departmental improvement plan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams, papers, presentations and projects in PLSC 101, 250, 261, 271, 291, 311 and 346</td>
<td>GUR 6, 7</td>
<td>Summaries of strength and weakness of student performance, relative to GUR outcomes 6 and 7, are reported annually to the Chair/assessment coordinator by faculty teaching GURs. The department will create a departmental improvement plan and a written summary will be sent to the CUE committee for action.</td>
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<td>Senior exit survey</td>
<td>1,2,3,4,5</td>
<td>Students are asked to self-report satisfaction with their skill and knowledge, as measured by their performance, relative to each SLO. This data is summarized, shared and acted upon, as described above.</td>
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<td>Papers in writing proficiency courses</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Summaries of student performance, relative to the SLO, are reported annually to the Chair/assessment coordinator by faculty teaching writing proficient courses. This data is summarized, shared and acted upon, as described above.</td>
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