

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSESSMENT PLAN

Political Science Major

Objectives (identify type)	Method of Assessment	Criterion
1. Disciplinary content (knowledge): Students completing a major in political science will demonstrate basic knowledge in four of five areas: American politics, international politics, comparative politics, political ideas, and/or research methodology.	Each spring all graduating majors in political science will take either a national standardized achievement test or a substitute test written by members of the department.	90% of all majors will answer correctly 70% of the items in four of the five content areas.
2. Research Methodology (knowledge/skill): Students completing a major in political science will demonstrate knowledge of the principles of research methodology.	Professors who assign a data-analysis paper will provide the name and rubric assessment score of each student completing a data-analysis paper to the assessment coordinator	All majors will have completed a data-analysis paper and 90% will have scored at least 10 of a possible 16 on the Department's Research Skills rubric.
3. Oral Communications (Skills): Students completing a major in political science will demonstrate oral communication competence.	Professors who assign oral presentations will complete the Oral Communication Skills rubric and give a copy of that assessment of a student's work to the assessment coordinator.	All majors will have completed an oral presentation and 90% will have scored at least 10 of a possible 16 on the Department's Oral Communication Skills rubric.
4. Written Communication (skill): Students completing a major in political science will demonstrate written communication competence.	Professors in upper level courses will complete the Written Communication Skills rubric for each student completing a major writing assignment and give a copy of their assessment to the assessment coordinator.	All majors will have completed a major writing assignment and 90% will have scored at least 10 of a possible 16 on the Written Communication Skills rubric.
5. Service (value): Students completing a major in political science will demonstrate a commitment to civic service	In the spring of their senior year, students will complete an assessment report sheet which denotes activities accomplished which meet this criterion.	90% of the majors will have participated in at least one of the following: an internship, a significant service learning project, or an on-going volunteer activity.
6. Integration of political science and the Christian faith (value): Students completing a major in political science will achieve a personal integration of political science and their faith.	Professors teaching the Department's capstone course (POLS 399) will complete the Integration Skills rubric assessing the major project of each student in the course and give a copy to the assessment coordinator. Students who do not take POLS 399 will provide the assessment coordinator with a copy of a major integrative study completed for another course.	All majors will have completed a major integration study and 90% will have scored at least 10 of a possible 16 on the Integration of Faith and Learning Skills rubric.

International Relations Major

Objectives (identify type)	Method of Assessment	Criterion
1. Disciplinary Content (knowledge): Students completing a major in international relations will demonstrate basic knowledge in three of four areas: (1) American politics and theory; (2) comparative politics and democratization; (3) research methodology and international relations; (4) international political economy and international security.	Each spring all graduating majors in international relations will take either a national standardized achievement test or a substitute test written by members of the department.	90% of majors will answer correctly 70% of the items in three of the four content areas.
2. Research Methodology (knowledge/skill): Students completing a major in international relations will demonstrate knowledge of the principles of research methodology.	Professors who assign a data-analysis paper will provide the name and rubric assessment score of each student completing a data-analysis paper to the assessment coordinator.	90% of the majors who have completed a data-analysis paper will have scored at least 10 of a possible 16 on the Department's Research Skills rubric.
3. Oral Communications (Skills): Students completing a major in international relations will demonstrate oral communication competence.	Professors who assign oral presentations will complete the Oral Communication Skills rubric and give a copy of that assessment of a student's work to the assessment coordinator.	All majors will have completed an oral presentation and 90% will have scored at least 10 of a possible 16 on the Department's Oral Communication Skills rubric.
4. Written Communication (skill): Students completing a major in international relations will demonstrate written communication competence.	Professors in upper level courses will complete the Written Communication Skills rubric for each student completing a major writing assignment and give a copy of their assessment to the assessment coordinator.	All majors will have completed a major writing assignment and 90% will have scored at least 10 of a possible 16 on the Written Communication Skills rubric.
5. Service (value): Students completing a major in international relations will demonstrate a commitment to civic service	In the spring of their senior year, students will complete an assessment report sheet which denotes activities accomplished which meet this criterion.	90% of the majors will have participated in at least one of the following: an internship, a significant service learning project, or an on-going volunteer activity.
6. Integration of international relations and the Christian faith (value): Students completing a major in international relations will demonstrate personal integration of IR and their faith	Professors teaching the Department's capstone course (POLS 399) will complete the Integration Skills rubric assessing the major project of each student in the course and give a copy to the assessment coordinator. Students who do not take POLS 399 will provide the assessment coordinator with a copy of a major integrative study completed for another course.	All majors will have completed a major integration study and 90% will have scored at least 10 of a possible 16 on the Integration of Faith and Learning Skills rubric.