

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE MISSION STATEMENT

Adopted November 14, 2000

The mission of the Calvin College Department of Political Science is to prepare our students to live lives of Christian service as stewards of God's created order, including the political realm. The department seeks to educate students broadly in the field of political science. Students who complete a degree in political science at Calvin College will receive experience and instruction in:

- a. content areas of political science, including American politics, comparative politics, international politics, political ideas, and research methodology,
- b. research methods and statistics, including both evaluating existing research and conducting an analyzing research on their own,
- c. writing for a professional and work-related audience, including both the use of proper grammatical standards as well as the standards that may be set forth by different professional communities related to the study and practice of politics,
- d. oral communication, including discussion and debate of political issues and the presentation of political research,
- e. civic service, so as to encourage our students to act responsibly and with discernment as politically involved citizens of a broader community—locally, nationally, and internationally, and
- f. integration of political perspectives, attitudes, and practice with the Reformed Christian faith.

(ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES ON REVERSE SIDE)

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSESSMENT PLAN

Adopted November 14, 2000

Objectives (identify type)	Method of Assessment	Criterion
1. Disciplinary content (knowledge): Students completing a major in political science will demonstrate knowledge in four of five areas: American politics, international politics, comparative politics, political ideas, and 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 grade of each student completing a data-analysis paper to the assessment coordinator.	90% of the majors will have completed at least one data-analysis paper with a grade of C or better in a political science course.
3. Oral Communication (skill): Students completing a major in political science will demonstrate oral communication competence.	Professors who assign oral presentations will give a copy of their assessment of a student's work to the assessment coordinator.	90% of the majors will have completed an oral presentation with a grade of C or better in a political science course.
4. Written Communication (skill): Students completing a major in political science will demonstrate written communication competence.	Professors in upper level courses will give the name and grade of each student completing a major research paper to the assessment coordinator.	90% of the majors will have completed a major research paper with a grade of C or better in an upper level political science course.
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 service learning project, or a volunteer activity.
6. Integration of political science and the Christian faith (value): Students completing a major will achieve a personal integration of political science and their faith.	Each spring the records of all graduating majors will be reviewed.	90% of the majors will have passed the capstone course in political science with a grade of C or better. Majors not completing the capstone course will be required to turn in a 1-2 page paper addressing integration.