

Political Science Assessment Plan and Schedule

The Political Science faculty re-examined their Concentration Learning Outcomes (CLO's) as required by the Assessment Committee following changes in ILO's and DLO's. After some discussion it became clear that our CLO's were already closely aligned with the revised ILOs and DLOs and so we left them substantially unchanged. We did add a civic engagement component to CLO #2 in order to address ILO #5. This also gives a measurable outcome to what we believe is a critical lynchpin of a political education: informed and responsible participation in the life of a democratic society. Table #1 lists the Political Science revised CLOs and identifies the program curriculum matching and addressing each CLO. Table #2 addresses the curricular mapping of Political Science Courses with the program's CLOs.

Table 1. Political Science Concentration Learning Outcomes and related Program Requirements

Outcome #	Political Science Learning Outcomes	Related Program Requirements
1	Demonstrate effective writing skills about political systems and processes using a consistent citation style.	Any Political Science course with writing SLOs; WI Political Science Courses; Senior Project and/or Senior Practicum
2	Demonstrate effective oral communication skills connecting personal experiences with an understanding of various political practices and civic engagement.	Any Political Science course with oral communication SLOs; O focus Political Science courses; Service Learning Political Science classes
3	Demonstrate critical and integrative thinking skills in understanding the role of the individual from local to global politics	Any Political Science course with critical thinking SLOs; Senior Project/Senior Practicum

Table 2. Curricular map for the courses offered by the Political Science Concentration. Courses are identified as providing low (1), moderate (2), or high (3) emphasis on aligned CLOs.

Political Science Program Courses	Effective Writing, consistent citation style	Effective Oral communication, personal experiences, political practices, civic engagement	Critical and integrative thinking skills, role of individual from local to global politics
110	1		1
130	1	1	1
302	3	2	3
306	3	2	3
308	2		3
316	3		3
320	2	2	2
326	2	2	3
330	3	3	3
335		3	2
339	3	3	2
342	2	2	3
370	1	2	3
371	2	1	3
378	1	2	2
381	2	2	3
384	3	2	3
430	2	3	1
450	2		3
SSCI 486-L	3	3	3
SSCI 490-L	3	3	3

- 1- Low emphasis
- 2- Moderate emphasis
- 3- High emphasis

Table 3 provides the schedule for assessing each Political Science concentration learning outcome. The Political Science writing CLO is scheduled for assessment in AY 2013-2014. The Political Science oral communication and civic engagement CLO is scheduled for assessment in AY 2014-15. The Political Science critical thinking CLO is scheduled for assessment in AY 2015-2016. We plan to start the assessment cycle again in 2016-17 by assessing writing again.

We plan to assess both online and in person course modalities for each CLO assessment. We also plan to address formative and summative concerns by assessing midterm papers and final papers in individual courses as well as evaluating final Senior Project and Senior Practicum papers right before Political Science students graduate from our program.

Table 3. Assessment Schedule for Political Science CLOs.

Political Science Concentration Outcomes	AY 2013-2014	AY 2014-2015	AY 2015-2016	AY 2016-2017
Demonstrate effective writing skills about political systems and processes using a consistent citation style.	X			X
Demonstrate effective oral communication skills connecting personal experiences with an understanding of various political practices and civic engagement.		X		
Demonstrate critical and integrative thinking skills in understanding the role of the individual from local to global politics.			X	

All Political Science assessments will be based on rubric defined standards. All rubrics will evaluate student assignments and projects on a 3 point 0-2 scale of performance. The instructor of each course will write a brief assessment report documenting 1) the course assessed; 2) the modality of the course (in person or online); 3) the rubric used; 4) the assessment methods; and 5) the results found. Because there are only two Political Science faculty, only one of whom is in a permanent position, we plan to each assess one course per semester, along with Senior Project/Practicum. Both Political Science faculty will 1) meet to share their results; 2) identify program level strengths and weaknesses; and 3) propose program level changes to address identified weaknesses.