

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Department of Political Science

Political Science

B.A. / B.S.

September 15, 2017

Scot Schraufnagel, Chair

1. Introduction

The Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science (BA-BS) degrees in Political Science were established in 1961 when the first chair Dr. Daniel Witt moved the political science faculty out of what had been the Department of Social Studies. The Division of Public Administration (PA) had been a part of the Department of Political Science until 2010, when it became its own Department. The Department of Political Science does maintain emphases at the undergraduate and graduate level in PA. Today, the Department of Political Science has 12 tenure earning faculty serving 387 majors and minors. The student to faculty ratio is approximately 35 to 1 (387/11).

2. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

1. Students will understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens in a democratic society.
2. Students will understand alternative perspectives of political values, institutions and American society and among nations of the world.
3. Students will be able to articulate the reasons for and defend their political positions
4. Students will be able to understand and evaluate objections to their political positions.
5. Students think critically and analyze political events, the efficacy of governmental institutions and processes, and contemporary public policy problems.
6. Students will be demonstrating high levels of professional development and be prepared for successful careers in public, private, and non-profit service.
 - (6A) Students will demonstrate high levels of professional conduct
 - (6B) Students will acquire skills and abilities necessary for obtaining professional employment and career success.

3. Program-by-Baccalaureate Student Learning Outcomes Matrix:

Program Student Learning Outcome	Baccalaureate Student Learning Outcomes							
	A. Global inter-connections and inter-dependencies	B. Intercultural competencies	C. Analyze human life and natural world inter-connections	D. Critical, creative, and independent thought	E. Communicate clearly and effectively	F. Collaborate with others	G. Quantitative and qualitative reasoning	H. Apply knowledge/skills creatively
1. Students will understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens in a democratic society.		M	M					
2. Students will understand alternative perspectives of political values, institutions and American society and among nations of the world.	S	M	M	S		M		M
3. Students will be able to articulate the reasons for and defend their political positions		M		S	S			S
4. Students will be able to understand and evaluate objections to their political positions.		M		S		S		M
5. Students think critically and analyze political events, the efficacy of governmental institutions and processes, and contemporary public policy problems.		M		S	M		M	S

Program Student Learning Outcome	Baccalaureate Student Learning Outcomes							
	A. Global inter-connections and inter-dependencies	B. Intercultural competencies	C. Analyze human life and natural world inter-connections	D. Critical, creative, and independent thought	E. Communicate clearly and effectively	F. Collaborate with others	G. Quantitative and qualitative reasoning	H. Apply knowledge/skills creatively
6. Students will be demonstrating high levels of professional development and be prepared for successful careers in public, private, and non-profit service.				M	S		M	S
Overall	M	M		S	S		M	S

The optional curriculum map begins on the next page.

4. Curriculum Map:

Course	Program Student Learning Outcomes						
	Understand rights & responsibilities as citizens in democratic societies	Understand alternative perspectives on political values and institutions in the U.S. and elsewhere	Effectively articulate reasons and justifications for their political positions	Effectively understand and evaluate objections to their personal political positions	Think critically and analyze political events, government processes, and public policy issues	Exhibit high levels of professional development and preparation for career success	Insert brief description of last outcome
POLS 100	B	B	B	B	B		Huh?
POLS 150	B	B	B	B	B		
POLS 210	B		B	B	B	B	
POLS 220		B			B	B	
POLS 251	B	B	B	B	B		
POLS 260	B	B	B	B	B		
POLS 285		B	B	B	B		
POLS 300	D	D	D	D	D	D	
POLS 301		P	D	D	D		
POLS 302	D		D	D	P		
POLS 303	D		D	D	P		
POLS 304	P	P	D	D	D	D	
POLS 305	P	D	D	D	D	D	
POLS 306	D	D	D	D	D	D	
POLS 307	D	D	D	D	P	D	
POLS 308	D	D	D	D	P		
POLS 309	P	D	D	D	D		
POLS 310	D	D	D	D	P		
POLS 312	D	D	D	D	D		
POLS 314	D	D	D	D	D		
POLS 317	D	D	D	D	P	D	
POLS 410	P	D	P	P	P	P	

Course	Program Student Learning Outcomes						
	Understand rights & responsibilities as citizens in democratic societies	Understand alternative perspectives on political values and institutions in the U.S. and elsewhere	Effectively articulate reasons and justifications for their political positions	Effectively understand and evaluate objections to their personal political positions	Think critically and analyze political events, government processes, and public policy issues	Exhibit high levels of professional development and preparation for career success	Insert brief description of last outcome
POLS 411	P	D	P	P	P	P	
POLS 412	P	D	P	P	P	P	
POLS 415	P	D	D	D	D	D	
POLS 419	P	D	P	P	P	P	
POLS 320		D	D	D	D		
POLS 321		D	D	D	D		
POLS 322		D	D	D	D		
POLS 324	D	D	P	P	P	D	
POLS 326		D	D	D	D	D	
POLS 327		D	D	D	D	D	
POLS 330		D	D	D	D	D	
POLS 331		D	D	D	D	D	
POLS 340					P	P	
POLS 350	D	P	P	P	D		
POLS 351	D	P	P	P	D		
POLS 352	D	P	D	D	D		
POLS 353	P	P	P	P	P		
POLS 354	D	D	P	P	P		
POLS 355	P	P	P	P	P		
POLS 356	P	P	P	P	P		
POLS 357	P	P	P	P	P		
POLS 358	P	P	P	P	P		
POLS 359	D	P	P	P	P		
POLS 360		P	D	D	D		

Course	Program Student Learning Outcomes						
	Understand rights & responsibilities as citizens in democratic societies	Understand alternative perspectives on political values and institutions in the U.S. and elsewhere	Effectively articulate reasons and justifications for their political positions	Effectively understand and evaluate objections to their personal political positions	Think critically and analyze political events, government processes, and public policy issues	Exhibit high levels of professional development and preparation for career success	Insert brief description of last outcome
POLS 361		P	D	D	D		
POLS 362		P	D	D	D		
POLS 363		P	D	D	D		
POLS 365		P	D	D	D		
POLS 366		P	D	D	D		
POLS 368		P	D	D	D		
POLS 371		P	D	D	D		
POLS 372		P	D	D	D		
POLS 373	D	P	D	D	D		
POLS 375		P	D	D	D		
POLS 376	D	P	D	D	D		
POLS 377		P	D	D	D		
POLS 378		P	D	D	D		
POLS 380		P	D	D	P		
POLS 381		P	D	D	P		
POLS 382		P	D	D	P		
POLS 383		P	D	D	P		
POLS 384		P	D	D	P		
POLS 386		P	D	D	P		
POLS 387		P	D	D	P		
POLS 388		P	D	D	P		
POLS 389	P	P	D	D	P		
POLS 390		D	D	D			
POLS 391		D	D	D			

Course	Program Student Learning Outcomes						
	Understand rights & responsibilities as citizens in democratic societies	Understand alternative perspectives on political values and institutions in the U.S. and elsewhere	Effectively articulate reasons and justifications for their political positions	Effectively understand and evaluate objections to their personal political positions	Think critically and analyze political events, government processes, and public policy issues	Exhibit high levels of professional development and preparation for career success	Insert brief description of last outcome
POLS 393						P	
POLS 395		D	D	D	D		
POLS 490		D	D	D		P	
POLS 491H	P		P	P		P	
POLS 494	P	P	P	P	P		
POLS 495	P	P	P	P	P		
POLS 496	P	P	P	P	P		
POLS 496H	P	P	P	P	P		
POLS 497	P	P	P	P	P		
POLS 498	P	P	P	P	P		
POLS 499H	P	P	P	P	P	P	
<i>Note.</i> Course supports the outcome at the B=beginning, D=developing, or P=proficient level.							

5. Assessment Methods

Assessment Method	Explanation					
	Description	Student-Level Achievement ^a	Program-Level Target ^b	When Data Will be Collected	Person Responsible	SLOs
Annual survey of all current political science majors (Appendix A)	Current political science majors complete an online survey in which they are asked how strongly they agree that their preparation as a political science major has (1) understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens, (2) understand different perspectives on political values, institutions and concepts of justice, (3) improved their ability to defend their political positions, (4) improved their ability to understand objections to their position, and (5) improved their ability to read and think critically	For each statement, students respond, “Strongly Agree,” “Agree,” “Neutral,” “Disagree” OR “Strongly Disagree	75% of all student respondents will respond “Strongly Agree” or “Agree”	The midway point of the Spring semester	Department Chair	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Internship Evaluations (submitted by the Supervisors of political science students who complete internships) See Appendix B)	Supervisors of interns who are political science majors provide evaluations regarding the students’ (1) Professional Conduct, (2) Reliability and Dependability, (3) Persistence in Completing Tasks, (4) Organizational Skills, and (5) Ability to work well with others	For each category, the evaluator ranks the student as “Excellent,” “Good,” “Average,” “Poor,” or “N/A.”	For each category, 75% of student interns will be rated as “Excellent” or “Good”	The midway point of the Spring semester	Internship Coordinator	6 (both 6A and 6B)
<p><i>Note.</i> ^a Student-level target is the score or performance an individual student must demonstrate to say the student met the student learning outcome. ^b Program-level target is the percent of all students that must demonstrate they meet the student learning outcome.</p>						

ASSESSMENT METHODS-BY-OUTCOMES MATRIX

Assessment Method	Program Student Learning Outcome						
	1. Understand rights and responsibilities.	2. Alternative perspectives of political values etc.	3. Ability to state reasons and defend political positions	4. Evaluate objections to political positions	5. Think critically about government and public policy	6. Prepared for successful careers	
Student Survey (freshmen and sophomores)	F, I	F, I	F, I	F, I	F, I		
Student Survey (juniors and seniors)	S, I	S, I	S, I	S, I	S, I		
Internship Evaluations						S, D	
<i>Note.</i> F=formative assessment, S=summative assessment, D=direct assessment, and I=indirect assessment. See the paragraph above for an explanation of each type of assessment.							