Degree Program Assessment Plan

Degree Program - AS - Political Science (MA)

CIP Code: 45.1001.00
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Program Purpose Statement: Master?s degree work may follow either of two plans: 24 hours of coursework plus a thesis or 36 hours of coursework without a thesis. M.A. students are required to take POLS 5381 and 5482. The M.P. A. program requires 36 hours of coursework and an internship assignment. Courses are scheduled so that the M.P. A. degree may be obtained in evening study.

Student Learning Outcome: Knowledge of specific field(s)
Students will demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of concepts, literature and research traditions in at least one field of Political Science.

Outcome Status: Active
Outcome Type: Student Learning
Start Date: 07/01/2006

Assessment Methods
Course Level Assessment - All students submit an annual self-evaluation during each spring semester describing their course performance, professional activities, and progress to date toward the M.A. These annual evaluations are reviewed each spring by the department?s Graduate Affairs Committee and the Director of Political Science Graduate Programs. From these annual self-evaluations the Committee and Director determine which students have, and which have not, met the expected outcomes (Active)

Student Learning Outcome: Analyze political questions
Students will demonstrate an ability to use correlation statistics to analyze a political question.

Outcome Status: Active
Outcome Type: Student Learning
Start Date: 07/01/2015

Assessment Methods
Exam - performance on correlation statistics in first year statistics class (Active)
Criterion: 85% of MA students should demonstrate this ability

Student Learning Outcome: Use Political Science data

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Students will demonstrate the ability to access and use political science data.

**Outcome Status:** Active  
**Outcome Type:** Student Learning  
**Start Date:** 07/01/2015

**Assessment Methods**

- this ability will be assessed by the students performance on exams in the first-year statistics class (Active)
- **Criterion:** 85% of MA students will demonstrate this ability

**Student Learning Outcome: Interpret multivariate statistics_1**

Students will demonstrate an ability to interpret multivariate statistics.

**Outcome Status:** Active  
**Outcome Type:** Student Learning  
**Start Date:** 07/01/2015

**Assessment Methods**

- **Essays** - students will be assessed on this ability through their performance on the second-year paper (Active)
- **Criterion:** 85% of MA students will demonstrate this ability

**Student Learning Outcome: Conduct independent research_1**

Students will demonstrate an ability to conduct independent research through the presentation of second year papers and conference papers.

**Outcome Status:** Active  
**Outcome Type:** Student Learning  
**Start Date:** 07/01/2015

**Assessment Methods**

- **Essays** - this ability will be assessed by the quality of the student’s second year paper (Active)
- **Criterion:** 85% of MA students will demonstrate this ability