



## Program Assessment Report (PAR)

Internat + Compar Politics (ICP) Masters Degree

REPORT PREPARED by: Shannon, Vaughn

ACADEMIC YEAR COVERED BY THIS REPORT: 2020-2021

### I. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will have a solid understanding of the knowledge of core theories of international and comparative politics, the design and methods of research in the areas of international and comparative politics, and in their chosen specialty within international relations or comparative politics. Students will have a grasp of writing, grammar and citation.

### II. PROCEDURES USED FOR ASSESSMENT

#### A. Direct Assessment

[DirectAssessment]

#### B. Scoring of Student Work

[Scoring]

#### C. Indirect Assessment

We conducted an alumni survey to gauge student satisfaction with these learning outcomes. Students who graduated between Spring 2019 and Fall 2021 were surveyed for this report. 20 surveys were distributed via email; 10 were completed and returned. Survey questions: Q1: To what extent are you satisfied with the skill preparation provided by the M.A. Program in International and Comparative Politics (ICP)? Q2: Are you currently employed or pursuing advanced educational opportunities? Q3: If you are employed and/or pursuing advanced educational opportunities, could you please share the title of your position or the type of educational program in which you are enrolled? Q4: One of the learning objectives of the M.A. Program in International and Comparative Politics is to “prepare students to be able to understand and critically evaluate the research

and documentation methods of international relations and comparative politics.” Please discuss any ways in which the critical thinking and evaluation skills that you learned in your graduate program have been applied in your work or educational environment since graduation. Q5: Would you recommend Wright State’s M.A. Program in international and Comparative Politics to a friend, co-worker or family member who was interested in the field? Q6: Please use this space to provide any additional feedback, suggestions, examples or details to any of your answers above, or any other matter related to the ICP Program.

### **III. ASSESSMENT RESULTS/INFORMATION:**

[AssessmentResult]

Issues raised by students have been discussed by program faculty, who have already been taking some actions to respond to these concerns (discussed below). Results were shared with the incoming (and now current) director of the ICP M.A., Dr. Vaughn Shannon and will continue to animate discussions among full program faculty as we work on continuous improvement.

[Analysis]

### **IV. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING**

Based on feedback faculty have received from students during advising and other discussions, the ICP Program has already put in place multiple program changes even prior to this assessment survey. Efforts underway to respond to concerns raised in discussions and in the alumni survey include:

- Ongoing collaboration with the CoLA Center for Liberal Arts Student Success (CLASS) to better develop a more consistent career path for students desiring employment at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, especially with NASIC. We have hosted two career nights for students (one virtual, one in person), and both the Program Director and the CLASS director have actively engaged with the recently appointed WPAFB liaison to Wright State University (who happens to be a recent ICP Alum).
- The creation of a new “Exam Track” within the program, to facilitate the timely graduation of students and to assist with the completion of students who have encountered difficulty at the thesis or project stage.
- Capitalizing on increased availability of remote tools, the program hosted, in collaboration with the Master of Public Administration Program (MPA), a virtual alumni networking event that included alums both in private industry (Intelligence Analysts) and those following academic paths (Ph.D. candidate). This program, attended by both current students as well as potential students, was well received and is a format we plan to continue in the future.
- Recruitment remains a crucial concern, especially given the challenges we are facing with the recruitment of international students. Program faculty have regularly participated in online Open House programs sponsored by the Wright State Graduate School, inviting prominent alumni to attend and speak at these programs. Funding challenges, particularly for international recruits, are likely to continue.

## **V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Additional documentation, when provided, is stored in the internal Academic Program Assessment of Student Learning SharePoint site.