



Program Assessment Report (PAR)

Political Science (PLS) Baccalaureate Degree

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ACADEMIC YEAR COVERED BY THIS REPORT: 2021-2022

I. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Political Science program at Wright State University has identified four learning outcomes for our degree. Graduates will be able to: Apply analytical tools to analyze problems relevant to politics, geography, the public sector, or the nonprofit sector; Analyze and evaluate local, national, or global political, legal, or social issues; Demonstrate understanding of the value of diversity and multicultural competence in today's global environment, and; Communicate effectively in writing. For 2021-2022, the assessment committee identified "Graduates will be able to demonstrate understanding of the value of diversity and multicultural competence in today's global environment" for evaluation. The other 3 learning outcomes have been or will be assessed in other years.

II. PROCEDURES USED FOR ASSESSMENT

A. Direct Assessment

Outcome assessed for 2021-2022: Graduates will be able to demonstrate understanding of the value of diversity and multicultural competence in today's global environment (LO for 2021-2022). The Political Science Assessment Committee assessed research papers (16) collected at the end of the Fall 2021 semester from PLS 4530, Politics of Russia, an upper-level integrated writing (IW) course. The course instructor collected the data and members of the Political Science Assessment Committee conducted the analysis. To score the students' level of performance of the outcome, we modified a rubric drawn from the AAUC's rubric* (*Rhodes, Terrel. "Assessing Outcomes and Improving Achievement: Tips and Tools for Using Rubrics." Washington, DC; Association of American Colleges and Universities, 2010).

B. Scoring of Student Work

Assessment strategy #1: 1) Student connects relevant experiences and academic knowledge, selecting examples drawn from a variety of contexts to illuminate topics and acknowledge perspectives other than own. (AS #1a) 2) Student sees (or makes) connections across multiple perspectives, connecting examples, facts or theories from multiple perspectives. (AS #1b) Members of the Political Science Assessment Committee did the scoring.

C. Indirect Assessment

Assessment strategy #2: The Department sent a Qualtrics survey to students graduating from Political Science at the end of Spring 2021 and Fall 2022 semesters, asking them how well they have mastered the learning outcomes associated with the Political Science program. The Political Science Assessment Committee focused on the LO for this year, "Graduates will be able to demonstrate understanding of the value of diversity and multicultural competence in today's global environment."

III. ASSESSMENT RESULTS/INFORMATION:

1) "Uses appropriate and relevant content to develop and explore ideas" (AS#1).
2) "Uses language that conveys meaning to readers with clarity" (AS#2). 3) "This course helped me communicate more effectively in writing" (AS#3).

69% (11 out of 16) of students achieved AS #1a. 63% (10/16) of students achieved AS #1b. 100% of respondents (N= 7) agreed or strongly agreed with AS #2. In fact, 5 out of 7 respondents (71%) answered "strongly agreed" with the statement "I am able to demonstrate an understanding of the value of diversity and multicultural competence in today's global environment." The data suggest that we are meeting our learning outcomes regarding the value of diversity and multicultural competence. Based on the evaluation of the writing assignments from one class, there seems to be some room in helping to promote awareness of multiple perspectives in analyzing political, social and economic events.

PLS majors are graduating with developed critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate local, national, or global political, legal, or social issues. PLS majors are able to state an issue, utilize information, and describe it comprehensively, but we need to do more to help students learn how to interpret and evaluate information in order to develop a comprehensive analysis. Of those who responded, PLS majors unanimously reported that they are equipped to think critically to analyze and evaluate information.

IV. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING

The Political Science Assessment Committee will present the findings of the report to the faculty at the next meeting of the School of Social Sciences and International Studies. We will discuss the results and ways in which we can continue to improve our efforts to promote the value of diversity and multicultural competence. This was our first year assessing the LO, so we are unable to compare it to previous years.

V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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