

Your assessment instrument and scoring rubrics go here.

Political Science Program Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan 2006-2007

Political Science is the study of government, public policies and political behavior. Political Science uses both humanistic and scientific perspectives and skills to examine all countries and regions of the world.

CSUCI graduates will possess an education of sufficient breadth and depth to appreciate and interpret the natural, social and aesthetic worlds and to address the highly complex issues facing societies. Graduates will be able to:

- *Identify and describe the modern world and issues facing societies from multiple perspectives including those within and across disciplines, cultures and nations (when appropriate).*
- *Analyze issues, and develop and convey to others solutions to problems using the methodologies, tools and techniques of an academic discipline.*

Political Science Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

The major in Political Science is based on the educational objectives emphasized in the California State University Channel Island's mission. All students graduating with a degree in Political Science will have taken course work and developed competencies in all four key areas of the university mission: interdisciplinary and integrative learning; multicultural perspectives; international perspectives and civic engagement through service learning or experiential learning. Unlike traditional political science majors, all students will be required to complete a course on racial and ethnic politics in the United States. This is not only consistent with our mission, but it reflects the ethnic and racial reality of California in the 21st century. The curriculum will have a strong international component as well, as all graduates will take international politics, and comparative government, and many of the elective courses emphasize international perspectives. All students graduating from CSUCI must complete nine units of upper division interdisciplinary course work. Finally, experiential and service learning pedagogies are woven throughout the curriculum, and the required capstone course is a community based project designed to synthesize learning through analysis of an important policy issue.

Students completing the B.A. degree in Political Science should be able to:

- Write clearly and with purpose on issues of international and domestic politics and public policy
- Participate as a civically engaged member of society
- Analyze political and policy problems and formulate policy options
- Use electronic and traditional library resources to research key local, state, national and international policy issues and present results
- Demonstrate competency with basic tools underlying modern social science research including competency in statistics and qualitative analysis
- Demonstrate critical thinking, including the ability to form an argument, detect fallacies, and marshal evidence, about key issues of public policy and politics
- Discuss the major theories and concepts of political science and its subfields
- Deliver thoughtful and well articulated presentations of research findings

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For the 2006-2007 AY, the Political Science program selected the following learning outcomes to assess:

- Analyze political and policy problems and formulate policy options
- Deliver thoughtful and well articulated presentations of research findings

Data and Analysis

Political Science is a new major at CSUCI, having enrolled its first students in fall 2006. This spring semester (2007), the Capstone course in political science (Political Science 499) will be offered for the first time. A group of approximately five students will complete the course. The learning objectives of this course are firmly aligned with the objectives for the major, and in particular emphasize the two objectives selected for assessment during AY 2006-2007. Course learning objectives for Political Science 499 are:

Students completing the course will be able to:

- Research issues of politics and policy using appropriate research design and quantitative and/or qualitative research methods
- Analyze policy alternatives and recommend policy solutions
- Conduct a literature review on a topic important to the policy project
- Locate and obtain quality sources of information using electronic and traditional paper based sources
- Present findings in both written and oral forms in a professional and polished manner

Students completing the capstone course during spring 2007 will produce a research project based on a real world policy problem impacting the community. Students will analyze the problem using techniques of social science research, formulate policy options and proposed solutions, and present their findings in the form of a policy memo and a poster. The posters produced by the students in Political Science 499 will be assessed based on a rubric designed to measure the two learning outcomes selected for this year. The assessment rubric, which is currently under development, will be modeled after successful rubrics used to measure policy analysis skills as well as the quality of presentation of research findings. The rubric will be pilot tested using the five posters produced by students in first year of the major. During the second year of the major, when a larger cohort will be ready to complete the capstone course, data will be collected for purposes of assessing the identified outcomes, and making program and course modifications based on our findings.