

Program-Level Assessment: Annual Report

Program Name (no acronyms): Political Science Major

Department: Department of Political Science

Degree or Certificate Level: B.A.

College/School: Arts & Sciences

Date (Month/Year): August 2023

Assessment Contact: Dr. Steven Rogers

In what year was the data upon which this report is based collected? 2022 - 2023

Two of six instructors completed a rubric for each student majoring in Political Science. Rubrics are attached to this report. Instructors shared a summary of those rubrics through a Qualtrics survey that answered the below questions:

- 1) For which class are you providing information?
- 2) This year, we agreed to examine this learning outcome: Students will be able to distinguish among various

The below chart summarizes the percentage of majors who met different levels of achievement (e.g., benchmark or exemplary) for the different rubric outcomes.

Instructors reported that students generally did well in terms of the following:

- Distinguish among various approaches to studying political phenomena in paper
- Recognize the existence of structures
- Adapting perspective to differing cultural contexts
- Identifying normative versus empirical perspectives
- Understand, critically analyze, and apply theories to real-world scenarios

Students faced more challenges in terms of the following:

- Demonstrating as much knowledge in discussion as they did in their papers, perhaps due to a lack of preparedness
- Synthesizing multiple theories to form a more holistic understanding of complex political phenomena
- Questioning assumptions of theories
- Understanding the consequences of different approaches

Three of six instructors stated that non-majors performed more or less the same as majors, two instructors stated majors performed better than non-majors, and one instructor said they did not have enough information to answer this question.

Instructors identified a variety of tactics that enhanced students' abilities:

- Practical application (e.g., use of real court cases or other real-world political scenarios)
 - Three courses independently identified this
- Repetition
- Small writing assignments
- Regular feedback

