

Program Assessment Plan Summary



WAYNE STATE
Department of
Political Science

Assessment Plan**Wayne State University****Academic Programs****College of Liberal Arts and Sciences****Political Science****PhD in Political Science** **PhD in Political Science - Mission Statement****Providing Department:** PhD in Political Science**Mission Statement**

The Ph.D. program in political science prepares students with a strong intellectual interest in political science for careers in academia, government agencies, non-profit organizations and private sector research firms. The doctoral degree in political science indicates not only the achievement of superior knowledge of the major theoretical approaches, research findings and debates in the discipline, but also the ability to initiate, design and carry out independent research. We offer preparation in seven subfields of study: American government and politics, comparative politics, political theory, public administration, public policy, urban politics, and world politics. Our Ph.D. students specialize in one major and two minor fields.

Progress: Completed**Related Items***There are no related items.*

 **1.0: PhD Political Science LO 1.0 Statistical analysis****Start:** 9/1/2015**End:** 8/31/2016**Learning Outcome Description**

Students will learn principles of statistical inference, estimation, hypothesis-testing and statistical reasoning. They will learn to conduct and interpret linear and multivariate regression with statistical packages (SPSS or STATA).

Progress: Completed**Related Items***There are no related items.*

 **2.0: PhD Political Science LO 2.0 Research Methods****Start:** 9/1/2015**End:** 8/31/2016**Learning Outcome Description**

Students will demonstrate mastery of techniques for using quantitative and qualitative methods to test competing hypotheses about problems in politics.

Progress: Completed**Related Items***There are no related items.*

 **3.1: PhD Political Science LO 3.1 Summarize theory and research****Start:** 9/1/2015**End:** 8/31/2016**Learning Outcome Description**

Students will accurately summarize theory and research in their major field of specialization.

Progress: Completed**Related Items***There are no related items.*

 **3.2: PhD in Political Science LO 3.2 Summarize Theory and Research: Minor fields****Start:** 9/1/2015**End:** 8/31/2016**Learning Outcome Description**

Students will accurately summarize core works of theory and research in two minor fields of specialization.

Progress: Completed**Related Items**


There are no related items.

 **4.0: PhD in Political Science LO 4.0 Research Design****Start:** 9/1/2015**End:** 8/31/2016**Learning Outcome Description**

Students will design and carry out independent research.

Progress: Completed**Related Items**

There are no related items.

 **PhD Political Science Curriculum Map****Start:** 9/1/2015**End:** 8/31/2016**Providing Department:** PhD in Political Science**Attach Curriculum Map Here** [PhD Political Science Curriculum Map 2016](#)**Progress:** Completed**Related Items**

There are no related items.

 **1.1: PhD Political Science OA 1.1 Statistical Analysis****Start:** 9/1/2015**End:** 8/31/2016**Progress:** Completed**Assessment Method**

PS 5630 - passing with a grade of B or better.

Results

Summer 15, Fall 2015 and Winter 2016: 10/13 Ph.D. students taking 5630 passed with B or better. (77%). Rate is similar to previous year.

Results from Surveys Delivered through Baseline**Program Action Plan**

Graduate committee will convene a meeting of all Stats I instructors, including part time faculty, to review learning outcomes and faculty assessment of PhD student needs in the course.

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation

Fall 2016 - Stats I instructor meeting. Changes to learning outcomes or course structure may result from this meeting. These will be phased in over the 2016-17 school year and reviewed in 2017.

Reporting to Stakeholders

The results are imputed into Compliance Assist and posted on the department website.

Related Items

There are no related items.

 **1.2: PhD Political Science OA 1.2 Statistical Analysis****Start:** 9/1/2015**End:** 8/31/2016**Progress:** In Progress**Assessment Method**

PS 6640 Stats II - Pass with grade of B or better

Results**Results from Surveys Delivered through Baseline****Program Action Plan****Timeline for Action Plan Implementation****Reporting to Stakeholders****Related Items***There are no related items.* **2.1: PhD Political Science OA 2.1 Research Methods****Start:** 9/1/2015**End:** 8/31/2016**Progress:** Completed**Assessment Method**

2.1 PS 7660 - Grade of B or better on final research design paper.

Results

Fall 2014 - 8/9 = B or better on final research design paper

Fall 2015 - 10/14 = B or better on final research design paper

78% of students pass with B or better on research design

results are satisfactory.

Results from Surveys Delivered through Baseline**Program Action Plan**

No action needed at this time.

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation

Additional means of outcome assessment for research methods will be considered for 2016-2017.

Reporting to Stakeholders

The results are inputted into Compliance Assist and posted on the department website.

Related Items*There are no related items.* **3.1: PhD Political Science OA 3.1 Summarize theory and research****Start:** 9/1/2015**End:** 8/31/2016**Progress:** In Progress**Assessment Method**

Students will pass major field comprehensive exam.

Results**Results from Surveys Delivered through Baseline****Program Action Plan****Timeline for Action Plan Implementation****Reporting to Stakeholders**

Related Items

There are no related items.

 **3.2: PhD in Political Science OA 3.2 Summarize theory and research: minor fields**

Start: 9/1/2015

End: 8/31/2016

Progress: In Progress

Assessment Method

Students will pass minor field comprehensive exams.

Results**Results from Surveys Delivered through Baseline****Program Action Plan****Timeline for Action Plan Implementation****Reporting to Stakeholders****Related Items**

There are no related items.

 **4.1: PhD Political Science OA 4.1 Research Design Skill Development**

Start: 9/1/2015

End: 8/31/2016

Progress: Completed

Assessment Method

Review of 7000-level seminars to see which assignments teach research design.

Results

Review of syllabi is in progress. Assessment will be updated in Winter 2017 when complete.

Results from Surveys Delivered through Baseline**Program Action Plan**

Graduate committee will discuss results in Winter 2017.

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation**Reporting to Stakeholders****Related Items**

There are no related items.

 **4.2: PhD in Political Science OA 4.2 Research Design**

Start: 9/1/2015

End: 8/31/2016

Progress: Completed

Assessment Method

Review of dissertation prospectus process.

Results

A selection of cases were reviewed.

Committee concludes that many Ph.D. students are taking too long to complete dissertation prospectus. Students should defend prospectus within one or two semesters of advancing to candidacy. Proactive guidance from faculty and the graduate director seems necessary.

Results from Surveys Delivered through Baseline**Program Action Plan**

Graduate committee will review dissertation prospectus process during the 2016-2017 school year to recommend

- 1) guidelines for students
- 2) guidelines for advisors
- 3) possible changes to department handbook

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation

Progress of all PhD students in the program who have advanced to candidacy as of December 2015 will be reviewed in Spring 2016

Reporting to Stakeholders

Results will be posted on the program website and regularly shared with faculty at Departmental Meetings.

Related Items

There are no related items.