Undergraduate Program Assessment

Department of Political Science

Student Learning Objectives
Students majoring in Political Science will learn:

• Basic political science theories in relation to the study of American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory
• Basic methodological and analytical approaches used in the study of political science
• How to critically evaluate scholarly and popular arguments
• How to think reflectively about their own learning
• How to work with diverse perspectives
• How to work effectively as a member of a team

Students majoring in Political Science will be able to:

• Make clear, sound, and compelling arguments based on appropriate evidence, both orally and in writing
• Work with interpretive, qualitative, and/or quantitative information
• Employ research tools including LexisNexis, database, and internet research
• Conduct close, critical readings of scholarly texts and popular media
• Understand and conduct basic research in political science

Students majoring in Political Science will be prepared to:

• Participate as active and informed citizens in a democracy
• Work in a professional environment (commercial, government, or non-profit)
• Continue study in graduate school or professional school

Assessment Tools

• Indirect:
  o review of annual senior survey data
  o in-house survey of political science majors
  o in-house survey of recent alumni
  o in-house review of majors’ post-graduation plans/careers
  o review of faculty SRTI evaluations (by Personnel Committee)
  o faculty-led workshops on teaching, pedagogy, and instructional technologies
• Direct:
  o Faculty review of independent study projects
  o Honors student performance at Undergraduate Research Conference
  o Submission and review of General Education and Integrative Experience proposals

Highlighted Recent Activities

• The department recently initiated a new, annual survey of political science majors
• A new survey of political science alumni has recently been developed
The department is holding a workshop on new instructional technologies in spring 2013