

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****MA in Political Science** **MA in Political Science - Mission Statement****Providing Department:** MA in Political Science**Mission Statement**

The Master of Arts program in Political Science is designed for students who have completed an undergraduate degree and wish to continue their education in Political Science. Our MA students have the opportunity to specialize in one of six subfields of study: American government and politics, comparative politics, political theory, public policy, urban politics, or world politics. Students in the MA program also gain advanced analytic and methodological skills. The MA program prepares students for doctoral study upon completion of the degree, and for careers in government, policy advocacy and the non-profit sector.

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

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

Students will understand fundamental concepts in statistics and be able to apply the basics of statistical inference, estimation hypothesis testing and statistical reasoning. They will learn to conduct and interpret statistical analysis with statistical packages (SPSS or STATA).

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

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

Students will identify the basic characteristics of the four major research designs in political science, and apply this knowledge by designing an original research project.

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

 **3.0: MA Political Science LO 3.0 Formal academic writing and citation****Start:** 9/1/2015**End:** 8/31/2016**Learning Outcome Description**

Students will master skills of formal academic writing and citation. They will communicate information and argumentation in writing in a clear, logical and formally correct manner with good grammar and appropriate citations.

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

4.1: MA Political Science LO 4.1 Subfield Specialization**Start:** 9/1/2015**End:** 8/31/2016**Learning Outcome Description**

MA students will demonstrate specialized knowledge of the literature in one of six subfields of Political Science: American Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, Public Policy, Urban Politics or World Politics.

Progress: Completed**Related Items**


There are no related items.

4.2: MA Political Science LO 4.2 Subfield Mastery**Start:** 9/1/2015**End:** 8/31/2016**Learning Outcome Description**

Students will demonstrate mastery of key literature and concepts in one of six subfields of Political Science: American Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, Public Policy, Urban Politics or World Politics.

Progress: Completed**Related Items**

There are no related items.

MA Political Science Curriculum Map**Start:** 9/1/2015**End:** 8/31/2016**Providing Department:** MA in Political Science**Attach Curriculum Map Here** MA_Political Science Curriculum Map 2016**Progress:** Completed**Related Items**

There are no related items.

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

1.1 PS 5630 - 80% passing with a grade of B or better.

Results

Summer 15, Fall 2015 and Winter 2016: 10/13 MA students taking 5630 passed with B or better. (77%)

The passage rate is improving from the previous year, but below target.

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 student needs.

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: MA Political Science OA 1.2 Statistical Analysis**

Start: 9/1/2015

End: 8/31/2016

Progress: Completed

Assessment Method

1.2 PS 7660 pass exam or exercise covering data processing and analysis with a grade of B or better.

Results

Fall 2014 and Fall 2015 2/5 passed with B or better (33%)

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

Behind target.

Committee proposes that all MA students be advised to complete PS 5630 successfully before taking PS 7660.

Separately, the committee advises that we alter this assessment method (eg does it make sense to include students who receive a grade of WF or fail to withdraw and receive an F, or assess only those who complete the course?)

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation

Beginning in Fall 2016 MA students will be advised to take 5630 before 7660.

Reporting to Stakeholders

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

Related Items

There are no related items.

 **2.1: MA Political Science OA 2.1 Research methods**

Start: 9/1/2015

End: 8/31/2016

Progress: In Progress

Assessment Method

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

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.

 **3.1: MA Political Science OA 3.1 Formal academic writing and citation**

Start: 9/1/2015

End: 8/31/2016

Progress: In Progress

Assessment Method

3.1 Members of the graduate committee will review each submitted MA essay or thesis to assess the quality of student's formal academic writing, rating from 1 to 3 where 1 is highest in quality and 3 is lowest.

Criteria: the introduction states a clear and meaningful thesis or research question; the body of the essay or thesis is organized as an orderly progression; the paper is substantially free of grammatical, spelling and usage errors; and a concluding section effectively sums up what the paper has demonstrated.

Results

___ (out of 1-3)

Note: Five MA essays were completed between Fall 2014 and Winter 2016. These are under review by the graduate committee and will be ranked over summer 2016.

Results from Surveys Delivered through Baseline

Program Action Plan

When scores are completed for 2014-2016 period assessment will be updated at that time.

Scoring will continue through 2016-2017 school year in order to have a larger pool of data.

Action will depend on scores.

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation

Reporting to Stakeholders

Related Items

There are no related items.



3.2: MA Political Science OA 3.2 Formal academic writing and citation

Start: 9/1/2015

End: 8/31/2016

Progress: Completed

Assessment Method

3.2 Members of the graduate committee will review each submitted MA essay or thesis to assess whether students have rigorously followed a standard citation style, assigning a grade of 1 to 3 on each (1 is highest in quality and 3 lowest).

Criteria: Standard citation style is consistently and correctly used throughout the entirety of the thesis or essay.

Results

___ (out of 1-3)

Note: Five MA essays were completed between Fall 2014 and Winter 2016. These are under review by the graduate committee and will be ranked over summer 2016.

Results from Surveys Delivered through Baseline

Program Action Plan

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation

When scores are completed for 2014-2016 period assessment will be updated at that time.

Scoring will continue through 2016-2017 school year in order to have a larger pool of data.

Action will depend on scores.

Reporting to Stakeholders

Related Items

There are no related items.



4.1: MA in Political Science OA 4.1 Subfield Specialization

Start: 9/1/2015

End: 8/31/2016

Progress: Completed

Assessment Method

Syllabi and assignments in core required courses for each subfield will be reviewed by the graduate committee.

Results

Lists of core and elective courses in MA major fields need to be updated to reflect program offerings and emphasis.

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

Core and elective courses will be updated by Fall 2016 to reflect committee review and curricular design for subfield mastery.

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

There are no related items.

**4.2: MA in Political Science OA 4.2 Subfield Mastery**

Start: 9/1/2015

End: 8/31/2016

Progress: In Progress

Assessment Method

Passage rate on MA Comprehensive Exams. Goal is 80% passage on first attempt.

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.