

Ph.D. in Political Science 2014-2015 Assessment Plan Summary

Learning Outcomes

- 1. Statistical analysis-** 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).
- 2. Research Methods-** Students will demonstrate mastery of techniques for using quantitative and qualitative methods to test competing hypotheses about problems in politics.
- 3. Summarize Theory and Research-** Students will accurately summarize theory and research in their major field of specialization.

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

1.1 Statistical Analysis Assessment Method- PS 5630 - passing with a grade of B or better.

Results- Fall 2014-Winter 2015 8 of 10 Ph.D. students passed with a B or better.

Program Action Plan- The Graduate Programs committee will meet at the end of the academic year to review results and to make recommendations to improve attainment of program goals.

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation-

Spring/Summer 2016:

1. 85% passing PS 5630 with a B or better
2. Review GRE scores (quantitative) for students below the benchmark to see if these are predictive of student success in PS 5630. Is additional mathematics training needed for some students?

Reporting to Stakeholders- Results will be inputted into Compliance Assist and posted on the Political Science Department website.

1.2 Statistical Analysis Assessment Method- PS 6640 Stats II with a grade of B or better.

Results- Winter15-SprSum15 16 of 17 students passed with B or better (94%).

Program Action Plan- The Graduate Programs committee will meet at the end of the academic year to review results and to make recommendations to improve attainment of program goals.

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation-

Spring/Summer 2016:

1. Conduct 1 survey of students about stats attainment.

Reporting to Stakeholders- Results will be inputted into Compliance Assist and posted on the Political Science Department website.

2.1 Research Methods Assessment Method- A Grade of B or better on final research design paper in PS 7660.

Results- Results will be available after end of Fall 2015 term when data for the course in question is next available.

Program Action Plan- The Graduate Programs committee will meet at the end of the academic year to review results and to make recommendations to improve attainment of program goals.

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation-
Spring/Summer 2016:

1. Action plan will depend on assessment

Reporting to Stakeholders- Results will be inputted into Compliance Assist and posted on the Political Science Department website.

2.2 Research Methods- Faculty evaluation of research design papers completed in 7000-level seminars.

Results- This is a new assessment. Results will be available after end of Winter 2016 term when faculty have reported data for 2015-2016 courses.

Program Action Plan- The Graduate Programs committee will meet at the end of the academic year to review results and to make recommendations to improve attainment of program goals.

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation-
Spring/Summer 2016:

1. Produce list of 7000 level courses in which research design papers are usually assigned.
2. Create recommended teaching goal to reflect assessment of needs.

Reporting to Stakeholders- Results will be inputted into Compliance Assist and posted on the Political Science Department website.

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3.1 Summarize Theory and Research Assessment Method- Students will pass major field comprehensive exam.

Results- Passage rates for 2014-2015 year are being compiled.

Program Action Plan- The Graduate Programs committee will meet at the end of the academic year to review results and to make recommendations to improve attainment of program goals.

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation-

By Spring/Summer 2016:

1. Compile major field passage rates, separated by each of 7 subfields.
2. Separate first-time passage rates from retakes.
3. Review course requirements and electives for each subfield.

Reporting to Stakeholders- Results will be inputted into Compliance Assist and posted on the Political Science Department website.