

Assessment Report - AY 2013

Name of Program: ***POLITICAL SCIENCE*** *

**The aggregate data presented for Measure #1 was compiled from the 20 students in the Capstone Seminar in the Spring 2013. The percentiles out of a possible 5 are provided below.*

School or Department: **SOCIAL SCIENCES**
 College: **HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Kean University

Program Level Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Measure(s)	Assessment Criteria (Method of Collection, etc)	Results of Assessment (Data Collected)	Action Taken (Closing the Loop)
SLO #1	SLO #1, Measure #1	SENIOR SEMINAR CAPSTONE EVALUATION	4.26/5.0	Continued challenges to student analysis of structural and organizational issues in politics and their impact.
	SLO #1, Measure #2			
SLO #2	SLO #2, Measure #1	SENIOR SEMINAR CAPSTONE EVALUATION	4.2/5.0	Increased efforts to enhance student comprehension of the complex relationship between theory and practice, challenging many of the students' focus on policy and application.
	SLO #2, Measure #2			
SLO #3	SLO #3, Measure #1	SENIOR SEMINAR CAPSTONE EVALUATION	4.36/5.0	Continued focus on external variables provided effective learning techniques and political sophistication.
	SLO #3, Measure #2			
SLO #4	SLO #4, Measure #2	SENIOR SEMINAR CAPSTONE EVALUATION	4.225/5.0	Program emphasis on specifically American issues reduced our focus on some global questions and phenomena.
	SLO #4, Measure #2			

SLO #5 & SLO #6	SLOs #s 5 and 6, Measure #1	SENIOR SEMINAR CAPSTONE EVALUATION	#5 4.425/5.0 #6 4.05/5.0	#5 Greater emphasis on the role of leadership produced well focused analysis and critique of decision making. #6 Improving the vigor of the philosophical component of our assessment mechanism, while challenging to students, produced more thoughtful and effective work.
	SLOs #s 5 and 6, Measure #2			

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

ADDENDUM 1

Beginning in Spring 2012 and extending into Spring 2013, the culminating assignment done in the Capstone course (PS 4130) was identified as a direct measure for assessing attainment of our program Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). In this course assessment data was collected from assignments of required students to provide the evidence of meeting program goals. In Spring 2013 semester, composite data from scored student assignments was collected and analyzed to address areas of program strength and weaknesses and to inform our decisions, ultimately resulting in program improvements.

We improved the rigor of our efforts to assess SLO2 and SLO6, raised greater challenges to student outcomes in these areas, especially in Spring 2013. Students displayed greater consistency in SLO3 and SLO5. The members of our program conclude, collectively, that as our assessment efforts move forward across the curriculum, we must constantly strive to maintain a balance among the various SLOs.

As a result of a review of last year's assessment report, the Political Science program believed that we ought to find a way to improve graduating students' comfort and effectiveness with oral presentations. During the past academic year, the Capstone Seminar employed a system to improve the oral component of students' presentations. Each student selected a partner who critiqued the oral presentation prior to its presentation in class. The partner took responsibility for 5-10% of the presenter's grade and vice-versa. As a result, students had a vested interest in the oral presentation component being more rigorous and effective. This proved to be a successful tool which we expect to employ extensively in the future.

PROGRAM SLOs

ADDENDUM 2

Program Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) – as aligned with KU SLOs derived from the Institutional Mission* and GE SLOs. ** (Data from Direct and Indirect Measures collected each semester in the Capstone Course or a designated, end-of-program course.)

Students who graduate with a B.A in Political Science should be able to:

SLO1: Students will be able to compare/contrast the nature of political relationships based on an understanding of political structures, organizations, and constitutions.

(KU 2, 3) (GE K2, S1, S3, S4, S5)

Direct Measure: PS4130: Research paper scored with rubric to demonstrate achievement of program goals. **Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey

SLO2: Examine and evaluate the relationship between underlying theoretical principles and their practical political ramifications.

(KU 1, 4) (GE K2, S1, S3, S4)

Direct Measure: PS4130: Research paper scored with rubric to demonstrate achievement of program goals. **Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey

SLO3: Identify and assess the extent to which political positions might be influenced by factors such as world view, cultural differences, race, class, ideologies, and gender.

(KU 1, 3) (GE K2, S2, S1, S3, S4, S5)

Direct Measure: PS4130: Research paper scored with rubric to demonstrate achievement of program goals. **Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey

SLO4: Analyze and appraise the nature of international and comparative political relationships.

(KU 1, 4) (GE K3, S1, S2, S5)

Direct Measure: PS4130: Research paper scored with rubric to demonstrate achievement of program goals. **Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey

SLO5: Identify and evaluate the important role that political leadership plays and the obligations assumed by a politically informed citizenry within a democratic society.

Direct Measure: PS4130: Research paper scored with rubric to demonstrate achievement of program goals. **Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey

SLO 6: Explain and assess the theories and practices of the American constitution and how contemporary American politics reflects continuing debate over these same theories and practices.

Direct Measure: PS4130: Research paper scored with rubric to demonstrate achievement of program goals. **Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey

*** KU Student Outcomes: *Kean University graduates should be able to:***

1. Think critically, creatively and globally;
2. Adapt to changing social, economic, and technological environments;
3. Serve as active and contributing members of their communities; and
4. Advance their knowledge in the traditional disciplines (GE) and enhance their skills in professional areas (Prof. pgms)

****General Education Student Learning Outcomes**

Student Learning Outcomes – Knowledge: Students will demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and content by:

- (K1) applying the scientific method to understand natural concepts and processes;
- (K2) evaluating major theories and concepts in social sciences;
- (K3) relating historical references to literature; and
- (K4) evaluating major theories and concepts in the fine arts.

Student Learning Outcomes – Skills: Students will demonstrate the skills necessary to:

- (S1) write to communicate and clarify learning ;
- (S2) communicate effectively through speech;
- (S3) solve problems using quantitative reasoning;
- (S4) think critically about concepts in multiple disciplines; and
- (S5) show information literacy.

Student Learning Outcomes – Values: Students will instill students with a distinct set of values:

- (V1) personal responsibility
- (V2) ethical and social responsibility
- (V3) social and civic engagement
- (V4) respect for diverse cultures and perspectives
- (V5) life-long learning