

2004 Annual Academic Assessment for Political Science

Schreiner University

1. State the educational purpose of the assessment program:

Students majoring in political science should progress well beyond the political science outcomes for all Schreiner University graduates. The students will have had the opportunity to read and think critically about political science topics, as well as assessing data objectively and without bias. The student will be introduced to the basic theoretical and philosophical tenets of politics; gain practical research experience using contemporary techniques of political analysis; gain a perspective of the American political system; and provide background training for such professional fields as law, policy research, teaching, journalism, management, and government service. With the educational foundation proffered in political science at Schreiner University, the student should possess a perspective that enables him/her to exercise effective citizenship and leadership, one who is able to draw conclusions and make informed decisions.

2. Educational goals, assessment for each goal, performance standards, and findings:

Upon graduating with a major in Political Science a student will be able to:

Goal 1: Learn to think critically about the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government as well as the role and function of the bureaucracy.

Satisfactory performance (C or better) in POLS 2301, POLS 2302, POLS 3310, POLS 3320, POLS 3330, and POLS 3340.

2002-2003 POLS 2301—84.7%; POLS 2302—69.2%; POLS 3310—100%; POLS 3320—N/S; POLS 3330—100%

2003-2004 POLS 2301—86.1%; POLS 2302---85.7%; POLS 3305---100%; POLS 3310---100%; POLS 3330—100%; POLS 3340---100%

2004-2005 Collecting data

Curriculum: An emphasis will be placed through the examination process on the student's ability to apply critical analysis techniques to the material presented in assigned texts and publications.

Faculty Development: Faculty will make every effort to keep current on research in each area and bring this material to the attention of the students.

Out-of-class Experience: Students will have the opportunity to observe in each area of government the reality of what they are exposed to in each course.

Goal 2: Students in the pre-law track will acquire preliminary skills and knowledge about the American legal system, its structure, and specialties. Satisfactory performance (C or better) in BSAD 3310, BSAD 3311, POLS 3320, POLS 3330, and other law related courses.

2002-2003 BSAD 3310—93%; BSAD 3311—100%; POLS3320—N/S; POLS 3330—100%; PHIL 3352—100%

2003-2004 BSAD 3310—76.8%; BSAD 3311---100%; POLS 3320---80%; POLS 3330---100%

2004-2005 Collecting data.

Curriculum: Emphasis is placed on the student achieving a basic understanding of the design, language, methods, and role of the legal system in society. Additionally, the student will develop rudimentary skills in various legal techniques.

Faculty Development: Faculty are encouraged to keep-up with current literature in the field.

Out-of-class Experience: Students will be required to use legal texts and internet assets to complete assignments. Observing the profession at work, in the form of attending actual trials and/or conducting interviews with practicing attorneys will be inculcated into courses where practicable.

Goal 3: Students will present well-organized oral presentations and hone their skills in properly writing research and/or position papers. Those students in the pre-law track will learn and demonstrate various basic techniques in the above as well as in writing legal briefs and by satisfactorily completing a senior thesis. Satisfactory performance (C or better) in the above stated activities.

2002-2003 POLS 3350—67%; POLS 3305—N/S

2003-2004 POLS---3305---100%; POLS 3320---80%; POLS 3330---100%; POLS 3340---100%

2004-2005 collecting data

Curriculum: The student will complete term papers, writing assignments, research papers, position papers, legal briefs or documents, and—if a pre-law student—senior thesis. Oral presentations will be both formal and informal, to include participation in

discussion of course material in class. These activities will be at the discretion of the instructor and designed to fit the material and topics in the course.

Faculty Development: Faculty are encouraged to keep-up with current literature in the field.

Out-of-class Experience: Students are encouraged to attend and participate when guest speakers visit the area or campus; attend events where politicians are making public appearances; and/or observe court proceedings. It is also suggested that students take courses in the fine arts which will result in their participating in public performances of some kind.

Goal 4: Obtain, read, and analyze current research literature. The students will make presentations of research results both during and at the end of course. The students will show correct use and analysis of primary literature on a related topic. Satisfactory performance (C or better) in writing and research, senior seminar and/or senior thesis.

2002-2003 POLS 4397—100%; POLS 4399—100%

2003-2004 POLS—4399---100%

2004-2005 Collecting data

Curriculum: Emphasis is placed on reading and analyzing the current literature in the various fields of study in the political science program. The writing and research course as well as the senior seminar and/or senior thesis project are designed to aid the student in perfecting these skills.

Faculty Development: Faculty are encouraged to keep-up with current literature in the field.

Out-of-class Experience: Where practicable, students are exposed to political scientists, members of government agencies, attorneys, and politicians.