

**ASSESSMENT RECORD FOR
DEPARTMENT
OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE**

(Academic Department Name)

Fall 2005-Spring 2006

(Assessment Period Covered)

November 27, 2006

(Date Submitted)

Includes Assessment Reports for those Instructional Programs listed below:

Title of Instructional Degree Program

Degree Level

(Associate, Bachelors,
Master's, etc.)

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Bachelors

Submitted By: Steven L. Ellers, Ph.D.

(Departmental Chair or Faculty Assessment Representative)

ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR

POLITICAL SCIENCE

(Instructional Degree Program)

Bachelors

(Degree Level)

Fall 2005-Spring 2006

(Assessment Period Covered)

November 27, 2006

(Date Submitted)

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose Linkage:

Institutional Mission Reference: As a university committed to the liberal arts as fundamental to education and committed to our affiliation with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Schreiner is dedicated to excellence in preparing students to live purposeful, humane and productive lives in their work, faith groups, families and communities.

College/University Goal(s) Supported: Schreiner is dedicated primarily to educating undergraduate students in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional disciplines, preparing them for entry into specific careers and graduate or professional programs.

Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes:

1. Upon graduating with a major in Political Science, a student will be able to think critically about political events, theories, perspectives, and public policies.

2. Upon graduating with a major in political science, a student will manifest a body of political knowledge and show familiarity with important scholars of political science and their works.

3. Upon graduating with a major in political science, a student will be able to prepare well-organized, cogent oral presentations about assigned topics in the field.

4. Upon graduating with a major in political science, a student will be able to write papers based on a sound understanding of the literature in the field and current research methodologies.

ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR

POLITICAL SCIENCE

(Instructional Degree Program)

Fall 2005-Spring 2006

(Assessment Period Covered)

Bachelors

(Degree Level)

November 27, 2006

(Date Submitted)

Intended Educational (Student) Outcome:

NOTE: There should be one form C for each intended outcome listed on form B. Intended outcome should be restated in the box immediately below and the intended outcome number entered in the blank spaces.

Upon graduating with a major in Political Science, a student will be able to think critically about political events, theories, perspectives, and public policies

First Means of Assessment for Outcome Identified Above:

1 a. **Means of Program Assessment & Criteria for Success:** The above cited outcome is assessed using tests, papers, thesis papers in the International Relations and Pre-Law tracks, and satisfactory completion of the capstone course in the American Government track. The tests, papers, and theses are on-going in each upper division political science course.

1 a. **Summary of Assessment Data Collected:** The International Relations track is in its first full year of course offerings so data is being collected. In all tracks, tests with 70 or better—(86.4%). Total papers with 70 or better—(91.6%). Student thesis—One senior thesis paper was attempted but not completed and the student earned letter grade of F for the course. Three students are currently completing the senior capstone course. Reporting on their outcomes will be accomplished in the next reporting cycle. In all other upper level courses, during this reporting cycle, students have achieved a 94% pass rate or 70 or above.

1 a. **Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program** The political science department will continue to encourage research as a major component to all essay examination responses in addition to improvement of writing style and structure. Additionally, students will be encouraged to employ, and sharpen their, critical thinking skills in their course work.

ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR

POLITICAL SCIENCE

(Instructional Degree Program)

Fall 2005-Spring 2006

(Assessment Period Covered)

Bachelors

(Degree Level)

November 27, 2006

(Date Submitted)

Intended Educational (Student) Outcome:

NOTE: There should be one form C for each intended outcome listed on form B. Intended outcome should be restated in the box immediately below and the intended outcome number entered in the blank spaces.

Upon graduating with a major in political science, a student will manifest a body of political knowledge and show familiarity with important scholars of political science and their works.

First Means of Assessment for Outcome Identified Above:

2 a. Means of Program Assessment & Criteria for Success: The above stated outcome is assessed utilizing POLS 4397 or POLS 4399 papers, oral presentations of material in class and, in the case of the International Relations and Pre-Law track students, defense of their senior theses/project.

2 a. Summary of Assessment Data Collected: During this reporting period there were no students enrolled in the American Government Capstone course. One student, pre-law, attempted their thesis but failed to complete the task in the allotted time and, therefore failed the course.

2 a. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program

The above cited summary of assessment data reveals that more emphasis on students meeting suspense dates to ensure satisfactory completion of their thesis is necessary. While the student in question was constantly queried and suspense dates were strictly upheld buy the department, the penalties for unsatisfactory progress were deemed to be not severe enough to motivate the individual to meet them.

ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR

POLITICAL SCIENCE

(Instructional Degree Program)

Fall 2005-Spring 2006

(Assessment Period Covered)

Bachelors

(Degree Level)

November 27, 2006

(Date Submitted)

Intended Educational (Student) Outcome:

NOTE: There should be one form C for each intended outcome listed on form B. Intended outcome should be restated in the box immediately below and the intended outcome number entered in the blank spaces.

Upon graduating with a major in political science, a student will be able to prepare well-organized, cogent oral presentations about assigned topics in the field.

First Means of Assessment for Outcome Identified Above:

3 a. Means of Program Assessment & Criteria for Success: The above cited outcome is assessed by requiring oral participation and/or class presentations in most advanced political courses, through the defense of the senior thesis, and extensive discourse over the body of material from all courses in the American government track during their capstone course.

3 a. Summary of Assessment Data Collected: Data for oral presentations is not readily available since faculty has been combining participation, in the form of oral presentation/class discussion, with attendance. Only one senior thesis was written during the fall 2005-spring 2006 period, and it was not completed therefore no oral defense, in the form of an in-depth discussion with the student was possible.

3 a. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program Beginning in the spring 2007, the faculty of the political science department will place a concise statement about expectations relative to oral presentations in all upper division syllabi.

ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR

POLITICAL SCIENCE

(Instructional Degree Program)

Fall 2005-Spring 2006

(Assessment Period Covered)

Bachelors

(Degree Level)

November 27, 2006

(Date Submitted)

Intended Educational (Student) Outcome:

NOTE: There should be one form C for each intended outcome listed on form B. Intended outcome should be restated in the box immediately below and the intended outcome number entered in the blank spaces.

Upon graduating with a major in political science, a student will be able to write papers based on a sound understanding of the literature in the field and current research methodologies.

First Means of Assessment for Outcome Identified Above:

4 a. Means of Program Assessment & Criteria for Success: The above cited outcome is assessed using writing projects in all advanced political science courses as well as the senior thesis/project.

4 a. Summary of Assessment Data Collected: Total writing assignments with grade of 70 or above—92%.

4 a. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program The personnel of the political science department will continue to monitor and develop means to better convey to students what is expected of them relative to their writing assignments. The personnel of the political science department will continue to assign significant written assignments in all upper division classes.