Assessment Plan

B.A. in Political Science
School of Social Sciences
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Kean University

Mission:

The Political Science Program seeks to provide a quality education to prepare students for graduate school or for employment in the private sector and for enlightened citizenship. Students in the program will be able to discern the nature of political relationships based on an understanding of political structures, organizations, and constitutions, and be able to understand the relationship between underlying theoretical principles and their practical political ramifications. They also will be able to demonstrate an understanding of both the traditional and modern approaches to the discipline as well the importance of political leadership and the obligations assumed by a politically informed citizenry within a democratic society. Students will also be exposed to the workings of the American political system and the underlying philosophical commitments that provide for its foundations.

Assessment Process:

Political Science students have 5 core courses including the capstone to take as part of the requirements for the major. These five core courses provide a sound backbone of the discipline with regard to the research and theoretical aspects of Political Science as well as the various areas of study within this field. As such, these 5 core courses are the primary vehicle for assessing the knowledge of our students. Beyond the 5 core courses, students take 6 other Political Science courses selected from a list of electives, and it is likely that no two (or very few) majors take the exact same grouping of courses. Therefore, the faculty have agreed to center our assessment on the core knowledge of Political Science. Each core course has assessment tools as part of the evaluation process; however, culminating assessment is done in PS 4310. In this course, assessment data is collected from an assignment that requires students to provide the evidence of meeting program goals. Each semester, composite data from scored student assignments will be collected and analyzed to address areas of program strengths and weaknesses and to inform our decisions ultimately resulting in program improvements.

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

**SLO2:** Describe 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 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 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:** Describe importance of and discuss the 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 the workings of the American political system and describe the underlying philosophical commitments that provide for its foundations.

**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.