

2011-2012 Assessment Plan for Political Science - Ph.D.

[Learning Outcomes](#) [2010-11 Snapshot \(read only\)](#) 2011-12 Current Cycle [2012-13 Next Cycle](#)

Last edited by DCrowley on October 9, 2012 [Remove This Row](#) [Add New Row](#)

Learning Outcome (s) [Edit](#)

Ability to apply theories to new situations and data including those of everyday life. [Edit](#)

Aligns with University Learning Outcome(s):
Learn and Integrate
Think and Create
Communicate
Clarify Purpose and Perspective

All students will acquire in-depth knowledge in at least two subfields of political science. [Edit](#)

Aligns with University Learning Outcome(s):
Learn and Integrate
Think and Create
Clarify Purpose and Perspective

Knowledge of basic concepts and theories of political science and its subfields. [Edit](#)

Aligns with University Learning Outcome(s):
Learn and Integrate
Think and Create
Clarify Purpose and Perspective

Ability to distinguish normative from empirical arguments and to critically evaluate both. [Edit](#)

Aligns with University Learning Outcome(s):
Learn and Integrate
Think and Create
Clarify Purpose and Perspective

Capacity to critically analyze empirical evidence [Edit](#)

Aligns with University Learning Outcome(s):
Learn and Integrate
Think and Create
Clarify Purpose and Perspective

Ability to communicate effectively in written and oral forms. [Edit](#)

Aligns with University Learning Outcome(s):
Learn and Integrate

Assessment Tools and Procedures [Edit](#)

Direct Measure
Direct Measure:
Comprehensive exams/dissertation
Indirect Measure:
Survey/job placement.

Indirect Measure
Job placement survey to be conducted every 3rd year.

Face-to-Face Measures

Benchmarks [Edit](#)

Direct Benchmarks
Faculty assessment of Ph.D. exams and dissertation will provide specific basis for determining whether goals have been obtained.

Indirect Benchmarks
Most (75%) will find a job relevant to the field.

Findings [Edit](#)

Direct Findings
We had six (6) students take their comprehensive exams this year. For us this is a record number of students taking the exams in a single year. All the students passed the exams demonstrating competence in meeting our learning goals. Four of the students passed the exams on the first try while two students were asked to rewrite one question. These two performed well when asked to do the question over. We had no students finish their dissertation this year.

Indirect Findings
We have been working on getting a more complete account of where our students have gone and how they are employed. The most recent student to complete her dissertation has a non-tenure track full time lectureship. Two of the recent students taking their exams have full time employment in the U.S. Two have left the country to return to their native country and we don't have any information on their employment. Two other students are employed as TA's for this department.

Face-to-Face Findings

Curricular and Co-Curricular Changes to be Made [Edit](#)

We have discussed altering our exam fields to emphasize public policy but haven't reached a conclusion on this. We now require 535 for all our graduate students and this has improved the quantitative skills of our students. Increased difficulty in having our students taking courses at WSU has led to a discussion of whether we will continue to require their Scope of Political Science course.