

2007 MASTER PLAN/PROGRESS REPORT

Academic Program: BA Government

Person Responsible: Billy Turner

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Mission: The purposes of the Bachelor of Arts degree in Government are:

- Students will broaden their knowledge of government through a program of liberal arts study as well as specialized study in political sciences (government).
- Students will be introduced to political theories, comparative politics, political history, and other important aspects of government and its historical development.
- To offer students opportunities to minor in government and/or better acquaint themselves with political sciences.
- All government majors will receive instruction in statistics, the scientific method, languages, and philosophy to enhance their political science studies.
- To prepare interested government majors for the study of law or graduate level study in political sciences.
- To serve the University, the academic community, and Southwest Louisiana through teaching, research, community service and University service. The government faculty are encouraged and supported by the University to be involved in the academic community and local community as service providers. Faculty are required to be actively involved in research and publication (EPO4, EPO1).

Institutional Mission Reference:

- To provide excellent instruction and advising to government majors and other students accompanied by academic excellence with a personal touch both in and without the classroom setting.
- Emphasize excellence in instruction. Annual Performance Reviews include SEI's to monitor student assessment of faculty classroom performance (AE1, EPO2, EPO3).
- The Department currently has no degree programs that have national accreditation status. However, all sociology faculty continue to input to keep each discipline contemporary with sociology degree programs nation wide (AE4, EPO2).
- Foster a climate that enhances student learning, focuses on retention, values advising, and enriches the quality of campus life. All departmental faculty are strongly encouraged to support student learning and high academic standards while maintaining "a personal touch" with students. Students and their advisors know each other and meet frequently in the classroom and advising office (EPO2)
- Utilize technology to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of campus operations. The department continues to write grant proposals to attain technological innovation and replacement of older equipment or attainment of new equipment. (EPO4).
- Support mutually beneficial university/community collaboration. The department and relevant faculty continue to work closely with university and community organizations to include advising, consulting, grant proposal writing assistance and more. (UCA1).

Assessment Methods Utilized:

- Standardized Exam (nationally normed)
- Standardized Exam (state-normed)
- Major Field Examination
- Internally-developed Examination
- Student Opinion Survey (SOS)
- National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

Data Repository Location:

Student Learning Outcome 1: Graduates will apply critical thinking skills in academic and professional environments.

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<p>100 percent of government majors will take at least one Philosophy course: most will take Phil 102 (Critical Thinking) or Phil 201 (Introduction to Philosophy): Additional Philosophy courses can be taken as electives. All Philosophy courses offered in the Department of Social Sciences assess critical thinking.</p>	<p>Philosophy faculty will use embedded questions on objective exams and examine critical portions of essay requirements to aggregate appropriate data for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Changes in coursework or focus will be implemented as needed based upon data compiled.</p>
<p>90 percent of government majors will complete SOCL 320 (Methods) and SOCL 411 (Theory). Both classes teach students to think critically and clearly about a broad range of subjects (BOR Goal #3, BOR Goal #5).</p>	<p>Embedded questions and critical portions of essay components will be analyzed and findings aggregated for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Changes in course materials and presentation will be made based upon data compiled.</p>

Student Learning Outcome 2: Graduates formulate and express ideas effectively through oral, written, and/or technological communications in academic and professional environments.

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<p>30 percent of government majors will complete SOCL 451 Q (Special Topics) which includes a research topic and lengthy research paper. Successful completion of SOCL 451 Q requires a demonstration of college level English usage and grasp of technological transfer of information where appropriate. 80 percent of students enrolled in SOCL 451 Q will make a grade of “C” or higher. (BOR Goal #1, BOR Goal #2).</p>	<p>The Department Head will evaluate the research papers and compile data for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Evaluate data and make changes as indicated.</p>
<p>70 percent of government majors will earn a final grade of “C” or higher in both ENGL 351 (Advanced Grammar) and ENGL 361 (Advanced English Composition).</p>	<p>The Department Head will compile data for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Evaluate data and make changes as indicated.</p>
<p>80 percent of government majors will earn a final grade of “C” or higher in a Speech course. Most take SPCH 201 (Fundamental of Public Speaking) or SPCH 205 (Interpersonal Communication) where they learn to communicate effectively through oral communication (BOR Goal #1b).</p>	<p>The Department Head will compile data for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Evaluate data and make changes as indicated.</p>
<p>30 percent of government majors will complete an Internship (SOSC 370, SOSC 371, or SOSC 372) in an appropriate area of endeavor.</p>	<p>An Internship Sponsor Questionnaire has been developed for sponsors to complete. The Coordinator of Criminal Justice administers all Internships. Information from sponsors will be aggregated and compiled for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Evaluate data and make changes as indicated.</p>
<p>100 percent of government majors will take ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 (English Composition) and earn passing grades. Students must repeat these courses if a passing grade is not earned. No substitutions will be allowed.</p>	<p>The Department Head will compile data for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Students must repeat these courses if a passing grade is not earned. No substitutions will be allowed.</p>

Student Learning Outcome 3: Graduates analyze the global community to make sound judgments in academic and professional environments.

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
100 percent of government majors will take GOVT 240 (Introduction to Comparative Politics). Embedded questions are included on each exam to monitor student progress on key issues.	Examinations include objective questions and essay work to demonstrate a grasp of global political science issues. Data will be compiled for benchmarking.	Evaluate data and make changes as indicated.

Student Learning Outcome 4: Government majors will understand the American political system and understand the American economic system (BOR Goal 11A/B).

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<p>All government majors will gain an understanding of the American political system as an inherent part of earning a degree in this field. 100 percent of government majors will complete both HIST 201 and HIST 202 where they will be assessed on the economic aspect of this student learning outcome. (BOR # 11a and 11b)</p>	<p>The Department Head will compile data for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Students must repeat these courses if a passing grade is not earned. No substitutions will be allowed.</p>

Student Learning Outcome 5: Government majors will self-assess their knowledge acquisition and their level of satisfaction with advisement within the program.

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<p>80 percent of government majors will complete a Departmental Government Exit Survey prior to graduation and rate their knowledge acquisition as "Satisfactory."</p>	<p>A Departmental Government Exit Survey has been developed which addresses seminal issues in government / political science. Government faculty will administer this survey to government majors prior to graduation. Findings will be presented to the Department Head in aggregated format for benchmarking.</p>	<p>To begin Fall 2007 and continue. Changes will be implemented as indicated by data.</p>
<p>90 percent of government majors will complete a Departmental Government Exit Survey prior to graduation and rate their satisfaction level with advising within the department as "Satisfactory."</p>	<p>Findings will be presented to the Department Head in aggregated format for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Changes will be made as indicated by data.</p>

Student Learning Outcome 6: Government majors will understand the scientific method (BOR Goal #5).

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<p>90 percent of government majors will understand the scientific method as assessed in SOCL 201. All government majors will complete SOCL 201 (Introductory).</p>	<p>Embedded questions will be utilized on exams to assess understanding of the scientific method. Data will be aggregated and presented to the Department Head for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Changes will be made as indicated by data.</p>

Resources Allocated: The major source of funding for technological innovation comes from successful grant proposals. The Department has enjoyed some success in this regard.
