University of New Orleans

Detailed Assessment Report
2013-14 Political Science Ph.D.
As of: 7/05/2014 07:14 PM CDT
(Includes those Action Plans with Budget Amounts marked One-Time, Recurring, No Request.)

Mission / Purpose
The Department of Political Science offers degrees at the undergraduate and graduate levels and its faculty teach, undertake research, serve as political/political processes resource for the New Orleans community as well as the state and nation, and serve in professional organizations. The Department of Political Science offers four degrees: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Public Administration (MPA), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). The B.A. degree provides undergraduate students with a basic foundation in political science with enough program flexibility to enable students to obtain training in other areas consistent with their professional aspirations. Students who successfully complete the B.A. degree will be qualified for graduate and professional education, employment in the public and private sectors. The B.A. degree provides a basic understanding of the political process in both the United States and in other political systems, and it prepares majors for post-baccalaureate study in political science or law school. The M.A. degree in Political Science provides advanced training in four general specialties: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and research methods. The M.A. degree prepares graduates with a knowledge of political processes and behavior and with the ability to engage in political research at an advanced level. The M.P.A. degree provides advanced training in public administration and nonprofit leadership through teaching, research, and outreach. The Ph.D. degree in Political Science provides advanced training in political science with concentrations in three specialties: U.S. Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations. Its Ph.D. prepares students for academic careers, to conduct political research at the highest level, and to teach political science.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives, with Any Associations and Related Measures, Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

SLO 1: Research tools and methodology
All Ph.D. graduates will have a demonstrated knowledge of the research tools and methodology necessary to gather political information and analyze it at an advanced level.

Related Measures

M 1: Qualifying exam
Jury judged Qualifying Examination
Source of Evidence: Academic direct measure of learning - other

Target: 75% of students pass the Qualifying Exam on first or second attempt.

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met
Three students took the qualifying exam. Two passed on the first attempt, and one failed. The second has not yet taken the second attempt. During Spring 2014, two students took and passed the qualifying exam. Thus, 3 of 4 passed, meeting the goal.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):
No change
Data is incomplete.
Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Finished
Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Qualifying exam | Outcome/Objective: Research tools and methodology
Projected Completion Date: 01/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Michael Huelshoff

M 2: Comprehensive written exam
Comprehensive written examination in major fields. Jury judged comprehensive written examinations in two fields combined with sufficient coursework in the third field.

Source of Evidence: Comprehensive/end-of-program subject matter exam

Target: 75% of all students pass the comprehensive exams in first or second attempt.

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met
80% (eight of ten) passed the comprehensives on the first or second try.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):
No change
Target is surpassed, but there are no alternatives.
Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Finished
Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Comprehensive written exam | Outcome/Objective: Research tools and methodology
Projected Completion Date: 01/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Michael Huelshoff

M 3: Dissertation prospectus
Source of Evidence: Academic direct measure of learning - other

Target:
50% of all students successfully defend a dissertation proposal

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met
100% (one of one) successfully defended a dissertation prospectus.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):
No change
Target is surpassed, but there are no alternatives
Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Finished
Priority: Hgh

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Dissertation prospectus | Outcome/Objective: Research tools and methodology

Projected Completion Date: 01/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Michael Huelshoff

M 4: Dissertation of acceptable quality
Dissertation of acceptable quality.
Source of Evidence: Senior thesis or culminating major project

Target:
50% of all eligible students successfully defend a dissertation

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met
100% (two of two) students successfully defended their dissertations during 2013-2014.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):
No change
Target is surpassed, but there are no alternatives
Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Finished
Priority: Hgh

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Dissertation of acceptable quality | Outcome/Objective: Research tools and methodology

Projected Completion Date: 01/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Michael Huelshoff

SLO 2: Understanding of three fields in domestic and/or foreign political processes
All Ph.D. graduates will have an understanding of three fields in domestic and/or foreign political processes and the ability to communicate their findings to academic and other professional audiences.

Related Measures

M 2: Comprehensive written exam
Comprehensive written examination in major fields. Jury judged comprehensive written examinations in two fields combined with sufficient coursework in the third field.
Source of Evidence: Comprehensive/end-of-program subject matter exam

Target:
75% of all students pass the comprehensive exams in first or second attempt.

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met
100% (seven of seven) passed the comprehensives on the first or second try.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):
No change
Target is surpassed, but there are no alternatives
Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Finished
Priority: Hgh

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Comprehensive written exam | Outcome/Objective: Understanding of three fields in domestic and/or foreign political processes

Projected Completion Date: 01/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Michael Huelshoff

M 3: Dissertation prospectus
Source of Evidence: Academic direct measure of learning - other

Target:
50% of all students successfully defend a dissertation proposal

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met
100% (one of one) successfully defended a dissertation prospectus.
**Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):**

**No change**
- Target is surpassed, but there are no alternatives.
- Established in Cycle: 2013-14
- Implementation Status: Finished
- Priority: Hgh

**Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**
- Measure: Dissertation prospectus | Outcome/Objective: Understanding of three fields in domestic and/or foreign political processes

- Projected Completion Date: 01/2014
- Responsible Person/Group: Michael Huelshoff

**SLO 3: Present a professional lecture**
All graduates will be able to present a professional lecture on a current research topic.

**Related Measures**

**M 5: Presentation of research papers**
Presentation of research papers at professional meetings

Source of Evidence: Presentation, either individual or group

- **Target:** 100% of all students will present a paper at least once during their studies

**Finding (2013-14) - Target: Partially Met**
100% of students who have been in the program for over two years have given a paper. Newer students have not yet had an opportunity to do so. This measure may need to be modified as the university has cut Graduate Enhancement funding, the main source of financial support for graduate students to engage in professional activities. An additional six students gave eight conference papers during the Spring 2014 semester. All had been in the program two or fewer years. One has been in the program only one year, thus clearly exceeds the stated goal. In sum, 100% of all students in the program at least two years had given a conference paper by the end of 2014.

**Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):**

**Continued monitoring**
Ability to meet this goal is contingent on university funding, and these programs are currently under review.

- Established in Cycle: 2013-14
- Implementation Status: Finished
- Priority: Hgh

**Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**
- Measure: Presentation of research papers | Outcome/Objective: Present a professional lecture

- Projected Completion Date: 01/2014
- Responsible Person/Group: Michael Huelshoff

**SLO 4: Trained to teach at the college level**
Produce Ph.D. students who are well trained to teach at the college level.

**Related Measures**

**M 7: Observations of GA**
Observations of each graduate assistant teaching in the classroom each semester

Source of Evidence: Academic indirect indicator of learning - other

- **Target:** All teaching assistants will be assessed by the Graduate Coordinator as having adequate teaching skills to be continued in their positions. The assessment rubric includes timeliness and preparedness, student attention, use of instructional technology (PowerPoint, etc), and overall organization and accuracy of information. Unsuccessful teaching will be addressed via remedial instruction by the Undergraduate Coordinator. Any students who fail twice will be dropped from further teaching. Goal: 100 per cent passage by second assessment.

**Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met**
100% (eight of eight) graduate students successfully passed the assessment on the first attempt during each semester of this assessment period in 2013/2014.

**Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):**

**Modifying the assessment rubric**
Goal has been met, but there are few alternatives except fine-tuning the criteria for assessing graduate teaching effectiveness. The department is discussing such changes now. Any changes, if deemed necessary, will be implemented in the next cycle.

- Established in Cycle: 2013-14
- Implementation Status: Finished
- Priority: Hgh

**Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**
- Measure: Observations of GA | Outcome/Objective: Trained to teach at the college level

- Implementation Description: Re-assessment of grading rubric
- Projected Completion Date: 05/2014
- Responsible Person/Group: Michael Huelshoff

**SLO 5: Successful careers**
PhD graduates begin successful careers
Related Measures

M 10: Job placement
Post-graduate job placement
Source of Evidence: Job placement data, esp. for career/tech areas

**Target:**
75% of all PhD graduates will be placed in professional jobs commensurate with the PhD, such as tenure-track faculty positions or professional research positions, within a year of completing the PhD.

**Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met**
50% (one of two) accepted a tenure-track position in a US university. The second completed her dissertation at the end of the Spring 2014 semester, and is entering the job market now.

SLO 6: Satisfaction
The Department of Political Science will obtain high satisfaction with its Ph.D. program.

Related Measures

M 11: Student survey
Student survey administered by the department every spring semester.
Source of Evidence: Student satisfaction survey at end of the program

**Target:**
75 percent or more of the students surveyed will rate the department “good” or better in annual survey of graduate students.

**Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met**
A five-point scale is used to assess program satisfaction, with lower numbers indicating more positive assessments. Results are as follows: Career Preparation: average score of 1.5 Methodological preparation: 1.3 Substantive course preparation: 2.1 Department atmosphere: 1.7 Professors helpful: 1.2 The open-ended question elicited two predominant opinions. First, students complained about the loss of faculty and its impact on course offerings and career development. Several suggested that they will leave the program due to the loss of faculty. Second, many expressed concern about the difficulty of the methodology courses. Thus, the goal is assessed as met, yet will be modified in the future.

**Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):**

- **No change**
  Survey will be implemented in the Spring 2014 semester
  
  **Established in Cycle:** 2013-14
  **Implementation Status:** Finished
  **Priority:** High

  **Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**
  Measure: Student survey | Outcome/Objective: Satisfaction

  **Projected Completion Date:** 05/2014
  **Responsible Person/Group:** Michael Huelshoff

  **Details of Action Plans for This Cycle (by Established cycle, then alpha)**

  **Continued monitoring**
  Ability to meet this goal is contingent on university funding, and these programs are currently under review.
  
  **Established in Cycle:** 2013-14
  **Implementation Status:** Finished
  **Priority:** High

  **Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**
  Measure: Presentation of research papers | Outcome/Objective: Present a professional lecture

  **Projected Completion Date:** 01/2014
  **Responsible Person/Group:** Michael Huelshoff

  **Modifying the assessment rubric**
  Goal has been met, but there are few alternatives except fine-tuning the criteria for assessing graduate teaching effectiveness. The department is discussing such changes now. Any changes, if deemed necessary, will be implemented in the next cycle.
  
  **Established in Cycle:** 2013-14
  **Implementation Status:** Finished
  **Priority:** High

  **Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**
  Measure: Observations of GA | Outcome/Objective: Trained to teach at the college level

  **Implementation Description:** Re-assessment of grading rubric
  **Projected Completion Date:** 05/2014
  **Responsible Person/Group:** Michael Huelshoff

  **No change**
  Data is incomplete.
  
  **Established in Cycle:** 2013-14
  **Implementation Status:** Finished
  **Priority:** High

  **Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**
  Measure: Qualifying exam | Outcome/Objective: Research tools and methodology

  **Projected Completion Date:** 01/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Michael Huelshoff

No change
Survey will be implemented in the Spring 2014 semester
Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Finished
Priority: High
Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
  Measure: Student survey | Outcome/Objective: Satisfaction
Projected Completion Date: 05/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Michael Huelshoff

No change
Target is surpassed, but there are no alternatives
Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Finished
Priority: High
Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
  Measure: Dissertation prospectus | Outcome/Objective: Research tools and methodology
Projected Completion Date: 01/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Michael Huelshoff

No change
Target is surpassed, but there are no alternatives
Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Finished
Priority: High
Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
  Measure: Dissertation of acceptable quality | Outcome/Objective: Research tools and methodology
Projected Completion Date: 01/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Michael Huelshoff

No change
Target is surpassed, but there are no alternatives
Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Finished
Priority: High
Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
  Measure: Comprehensive written exam | Outcome/Objective: Understanding of three fields in domestic and/or foreign political processes
Projected Completion Date: 01/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Michael Huelshoff

No change
Target is surpassed, but there are no alternatives
Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Finished
Priority: High
Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
  Measure: Dissertation prospectus | Outcome/Objective: Understanding of three fields in domestic and/or foreign political processes
Projected Completion Date: 01/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Michael Huelshoff

No change
Target is surpassed, but there are no alternatives
Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Finished
Priority: High
Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
  Measure: Comprehensive written exam | Outcome/Objective: Research tools and methodology
Projected Completion Date: 01/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Michael Huelshoff