

**BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE, SUNY**  
**MAJOR PROGRAM FIVE-YEAR ASSESSMENT PLAN**  
**Academic Years 2009-2010 through 2013-2014**  
**B.A. Political Science**

Department Political Science

Student Learning Goals/Objectives	Courses or Activities Resulting in Achievement of Goals/Objectives	Assessment Activities Resulting in Achievement of Goals/Objectives	Measures/Criteria/Rubrics of Student Achievement of Goals/Objectives	Timetable
<p>1. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts and information in the department's core courses and in the required subfields of political science:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American politics &amp; government</li> <li>• Comparative politics &amp; government</li> <li>• International relations</li> <li>• Political Theory</li> <li>• Methods &amp; Analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Courses</li> <li>• Courses in subfields (Students are required to take a minimum of one course in each of the listed subfields.)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Score on Objective Exam</b></p> <p>ETS Political Science Subject Exam to students registered in PSC 399, Research Skills. The test will be administered in computer lab once per year.</p> <p>Department will keep list of students who have completed the ETS requirement.</p>	<p>ETS Scores*</p> <p>171-200 Far Exceeds Standards</p> <p>165-170 Exceeds Standards</p> <p>160-164 Meets Standards</p> <p>Below 160 Does not meet standards</p> <p><i>*ETS Score Range is 200-120</i></p>	<p>Curriculum &amp; Assessment Committee compiles and reports results in the department's annual report. Results should be compared both to previous Buffalo State results (beginning with Fall 2012 exam) and with a national results (beginning in Fall 2011 exam)</p> <p><b>ETS Administration:</b>            Fall 2011-PSC 399            Fall 2012-PSC 399            Fall 2013-PSC 399</p>

<p>2. Demonstrate critical thinking and analysis skills:</p>	<p>PSC 101 (Majors only section collected each fall) PSC 470 (Senior Seminar) or Internship paper (local, Washington, Albany) or research paper in another upper-division course</p>	<p>Baseline: Random sample of students selected in freshmen class</p> <p>PSC 101-Research Essay</p> <p><b>Seniors:</b> Two samples—</p> <p>1) Follow up of freshman sample (panel/longitudinal data—PSC 101 Research Essay/Senior Seminar or Internship)</p> <p>2) Random sample of papers as described under Column #2</p> <p>Two evaluators. A third may be needed if scores deviate by more than 2 points. Evaluators cannot have taught the course from which the paper is drawn.</p>	<p>5=Excellent 4=Very Good 3=Average 2=Below Average 1=Poor</p> <p>See attached assessment rubric.</p> <p>Graduating seniors should earn 3 or higher (5-point scale) on this measure.</p>	<p>Curriculum &amp; Assessment Committee compiles and reports results in the department's annual report.</p> <p><b>One-shot design:</b> May 2011 May 2012 May 2013 May 2014</p> <p><b>Longitudinal:</b> May 2013 May 2012 (first majors only class took place in Fall 2009)</p>
<p>3. Demonstrate research ability</p>	<p>PSC 470 (Senior Seminar) or Internship paper (local, Washington, Albany) or research paper in another upper-division course</p>	<p><b>Seniors:</b></p> <p>Random sample of papers as described under Column #2</p> <p>Two evaluators. A third may be needed if scores deviate by more than 2 points. Evaluators cannot have taught the course from which the paper is drawn.</p>	<p>5=Excellent 4=Very Good 3=Average 2=Below Average 1=Poor</p> <p>See attached assessment rubric.</p> <p>Graduating seniors should earn 3 or higher (5-point scale) on this measure.</p>	<p>Curriculum &amp; Assessment Committee compiles and reports results in the department's annual report.</p> <p><b>One-shot design:</b> May 2011 May 2012 May 2013 May 2014</p>

4. Demonstrate writing skills	PSC 101 (majors only section) PSC 470 (Senior Seminar) or Internship paper (local, Washington, Albany) or research paper in another upper-division course	<p>Baseline: Random sample of students selected in freshmen class</p> <p>PSC 101-Research Essay</p> <p><b>Seniors:</b> Two samples—</p> <p>1) Follow up of freshman sample (panel/longitudinal data—PSC 101 Research Essay/Senior Seminar or Internship)</p> <p>2) Random sample of papers as described under Column #2</p> <p>Two evaluators. A third may be needed if scores deviate by more than 2 points. Evaluators cannot have taught the course from which the paper is drawn.</p>	<p>5=Excellent 4=Very Good 3=Average 2=Below Average 1=Poor</p> <p>See attached assessment rubric.</p> <p>Graduating seniors should earn 3 or higher (5-point scale) on this measure.</p>	<p>Curriculum &amp; Assessment Committee compiles and reports results in the department's annual report.</p> <p><b>One-shot design:</b> May 2011 May 2012 May 2013 May 2014</p> <p><b>Longitudinal:</b> May 2013 May 2012 (first majors only class took place in Fall 2009)</p>

<p>5. Gain citizenship &amp; participation skills</p> <p>a) Conceptualizing Citizenship</p> <p>b) Participatory</p>	<p>a) Conceptualizing Citizenship</p> <p>PSC 101-core readings and lectures</p> <p>b) Participatory</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Internships</li> <li>2) PSD advised clubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Mock Trial</li> <li>-Model UN</li> <li>-Model EU</li> <li>-Student Political Society</li> <li>-Pi Sigma Alpha (Xi Theta Chapter)</li> </ul> </li> <li>3) Undergraduate Research</li> <li>4) Study Abroad or Study Trip/Tour in another country</li> <li>5) Participate in a Volunteer &amp; Service Learning Activity</li> <li>6) PSC 327, Practical Politics</li> <li>7) Campus Governance</li> <li>8) Others as specified by the Student &amp; Alumni Committee</li> </ol>	<p>a) Conceptualizing Citizenship</p> <p>Five-page paper based on core readings and lectures written to explore, examine, and assess the tension between <i>res publica</i> and individual rights in their essays.</p> <p>b) Participatory</p> <p>Faculty advisor/supervisor reports at the end of each activity (reporting template devised by department's Student &amp; Alumni Committee)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Student satisfaction survey delivered via ANGEL after participation in formal activities (SUNYMEU, Mock Trial, Model UN)</li> <li>2) Number of students participating in each activity</li> <li>3) Exit survey of graduating seniors administered via ANGEL in Senior Seminar, Internship, or Research Skills Class</li> </ol>	<p>Measures:</p> <p>a) Conceptualizing Citizenship</p> <p>5=Excellent 4=Very Good 3=Average 2=Below Average 1=Poor</p> <p>See PSC 101 essay question and assessment rubric. Two faculty members will undertake "blind" assessment. They will not have taught the Majors only section of PSC 101 for that semester.</p> <p>b) Participatory</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Faculty describe activities and evaluate learning experience</li> <li>2) Student Satisfaction</li> </ol> <p>5=Excellent 4=Very Good 3=Average 2=Below Average 1=Poor</p>	<p>a) Conceptualizing Citizenship</p> <p>Assessment completed each May during department program assessment week.</p> <p>b) Participatory</p> <p>The Student &amp; Alumni Committee will file an electronic report with the Curriculum &amp; Assessment Committee each May to be included in the Political Science Annual Report, beginning May 2010</p>
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			<p>3) <i>Far Exceeds Expectations:</i> ≥75% of students participate in at least one named activity</p> <p><i>Exceeds Expectations:</i> Between 50-74% of students participate in at least one named activity</p> <p><i>Meets Expectations:</i> Between 25-49% of students participate in at least one named activity</p> <p><i>Does Not Meet Expectations:</i> Less than 25% of majors participate in at least one of the named activities</p> <p>4) Exit survey (to determine activities not listed in faculty reports as required in #1)</p>	
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<p>6. Apply skills after graduation</p>		<p>1. Alumni survey conducted via <i>Opinio</i></p> <p>2. Informal feedback from members of the alumni chapter</p>	<p>1. Alumni self-reported on applicability of skills obtained in political science major:  5=Excellent  4=Very Good  3=Average  2=Below Average  1=Poor</p> <p>2. Student &amp; Alumni Committee summarize the consensus, utilizing anecdotal evidence as available, fully recognizing that although the alumni chapter is self-selecting, member feedback can be useful to the department</p>	<p>1. Beginning April 2009, every three years, thereafter</p> <p>Administered by the Student &amp; Alumni Committee</p> <p>2009 (completed and included in 2009 annual report). Next scheduled in this assessment cycle: 2012</p> <hr/> <p>2. Compiled by the Student &amp; Alumni Committee as part of their committee's assessment report for the department's annual report</p> <p><u>Scheduled:</u>  May 2012  May 2013  May 2014</p>
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