

**ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES
FOR
DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE**

POLITICAL SCIENCE DISCIPLINE

Fall/Spring 2008

February 2009

Assessment reports are included for the instructional programs listed below:

Program Name

Level

Political Science

**Bachelor of Arts
Major/Minor**

Submitted by: Dr. A. Manafy, Professor of Political Science
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Dr. Elaine Rodriquez, Visiting Associate Professor of Political Science

Assessment Report for:

Political Science

Bachelor of Arts
Major/Minor

Fall/Spring 2008

February 2009

Mission and Goals

Institutional Mission:

“New Mexico Highlands University is committed to . . . discovering, preserving and applying knowledge and . . . to new opportunities for learning, research and public service . . . the university recognizes its special obligation . . . to the preparation of undergraduate students for advanced degrees or challenging professional careers . . . [and] seeks to empower students and the region’s ethnic populations to achieve full involvement in . . . society.”

Department’s/Program’s Goal(s) in Support of Institutional Mission:

“ . . . discovering . . . and applying knowledge . . . and new opportunities for . . . public service . . . to preparation of undergraduate students for advanced degrees or . . . professional careers . . . [and] to empower students to achieve full involvement . . . in society.”

Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes:

1. Students will acquire knowledge of American governmental institutions and political processes.
2. Students will gain knowledge of the relevant literature (and thus, the process of political analysis) of the field of political science.
3. Students will develop the ability to think critically and demonstrate ability to analyze political issues.
4. Students will acquire academic knowledge and skills that will enable them to enter graduate and/or professional schools.

Assessment Report for:

Political Science

B.A. Major/Minor

Report for AY 2008

February 2009

Intended Educational Outcome I:

PS 151 American National Government

Students will acquire knowledge of American governmental institutions and political processes. Such knowledge will enhance student awareness of the theory and principles of American constitutional government, citizen rights and responsibilities, make them better citizens and empower them for more effective participation in the political process.

A. Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:

The category evaluates and gauges the students knowledge of American National Government, POLS 151, which is a core universal requirement for all students. The evaluation is based on the entrance and exit exams. To assure complete validity in testing students aptitude before and after completing of the course, the same comprehensive exam is used. The test is devised to comparatively gauge students progress. The entrance test is given in the first two weeks of the Spring semester and the exit test at the end of the semester. The test is mostly comprised of multiple choice and true/false questions revolving around 3 categorical parts:

- I. Constitutional Principles
- II. Government Institutions
- III. Political Process

Students are required to receive a score of at least 60% on the test to be considered passing.

B. Data Results:

Pre/Post Exams were administered by university personnel for core curriculum outcome assessment. Data results will be reported by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research.

C. Use of Results:

A comparative analysis of entrance/exit exams will reveal the differences which in turn will provide for a solid output. However, the results will be reported to the Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts, the Department Chair and faculty of political science for the purpose of modification or change, if needed.

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Majors and Minors, Fall 2005-2008

Fall 2005	Political Science Majors:	35
	Political Science Minors:	6
Fall 2006	Political Science Majors:	45
	Political Science Minors:	5
Fall 2007	Political Science Majors:	43
	Political Science Minors:	2
Fall 2008	Political Science Majors:	45
	Political Science Minors:	7

Degrees Awarded, Spring 2006-2008

Spring 2006	Political Science Majors:	2
	Political Science Minors:	5
Spring 2007	Political Science Majors:	2
	Political Science Minors:	3
Spring 2008	Political Science Majors:	No data
	Political Science Minors:	No data

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Intended Educational Outcome 2:

Students will gain knowledge of the relevant literature (and thus the process of political analysis) of the field of political science. Such knowledge will enhance their awareness of varying political institutions, principles and ideas and encourage their own informed analysis of American political institutions in light of comparative political systems. Such preparation will enhance their advancement to graduate and/or professional schools.

A. Means of Program Assessment and Criteria for Success:

Each semester the professor in charge of the outcomes assessment will request from faculty of political science a set of randomly selected essays (book reports, term papers, book reviews, critical briefs or reaction papers) written by political science majors or minors for 300 and 400 level courses. From this collection of writing samples, three samples from each 300 and 400 level course will be randomly chosen for assessment. Two political science professors will read each sample and score each category (knowledge of literature, originality, analytical/critical thinking, writing skills) on a scale of 1-5 (failing, good, excellent) with 5 being the highest. The “criteria for success” is a score of 3 or higher.

B. Data Results:

Four sets of papers were randomly selected from four, upper-division, political science courses (300 and 400 level). Two political science professors evaluated the papers using a scale of one-to-five (one = poor/failing work and five = excellent work) in the areas of knowledge of literature, originality, analytical/critical thinking, and writing skills. Following are the results:

- 1) Knowledge of literature: Average score = 3.9.
- 2) Originality: Average score = 3.4
- 3) Analytical and Critical thinking skills: Average score = 3.6.
- 4) Writing skills: Average score = 3.8

C. Evaluator's Comments:

Strengths:

1. Students use of various types of sources, such as U.S. Census dates, New Mexico Statutes, Non-governmental Reports, and Polling data.
2. The style and organization seemed logical and coherent.
3. Analysis is based on information collected from scholarly sources and course material.

Weaknesses:

1. Citations are somewhat irregular.
2. Students have demonstrated mistakes in grammar and sentence structure.
3. Students writing is descriptive, needs more analysis.

D. Use of Results:

Results will be reported to the Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts, the Department Chair and Political Science faculty for discussion and appropriate changes, if needed. Discussions with English department to coordinate and assist the Political Science department with the weaknesses in student's writing.

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Intended Educational Outcome 3:

Students will develop ability to think critically and demonstrate ability to analyze political issues. By encouraging open and frank discussion and writing discourse on diverse political institutions, students will develop ability to explore comparative political systems and philosophies. Such knowledge and skills are necessary for admission to and success in graduate and/or professional schools.

A. Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:

Students graduating in May, 2008 are required to write a senior essay in one of two areas. POLS 410, The American Constitution or POLS 458, Political Theory. Two political science professors will read and score each essay based on a 1-5 scale (5 being the highest). The “criteria for success” is a score of 3 or higher.

B. Data Results:

No data is available at this time.

C. Use of Results:

See Outcome 2 on page 6.

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Intended Educational Outcome 4:

Students will acquire academic knowledge and skills that will enable them to enter graduate and/or professional schools.

A. Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:

By the end of the Fall 2008 semester a survey of graduating students will be conducted to determine if they were admitted into graduate, law or other professional schools. Students who have sought and/or obtained a professional career. If at least 50% of the graduating students met the aforementioned criteria and are attending graduate and/or professional schools, this objective is achieved.

B. Data Results: Concrete Outcome Assessment in Political Science via Highlands Graduate Continuance

PH.D. Candidates and Graduates in Teaching Positions

1. Dr. Larry Rush, Assistant Professor.
2. Dr. Elaine Rodriquez, Visiting Associate Professor, NMHU.
3. Melissa Montoya, ABD.
4. Dr. Twila Quintana, J.D., teaching at Luna College.
5. Amber Lucero, M.A., teaching at Austin Community College and pursuing PH.D. at UTEP.
6. Neil Carson, M.A., teaching in Colorado.
7. Tasha Vigil, M.A., Visiting Professor at NMHU Business School.
8. Helene Boudreau, M.A., Instructor at NMHU.
9. Elisha Wofford, M.A., Employed at NMHU.
10. Dr. Vidal Martinez, Dean of Humanities at Luna College.
11. Katherine Berg, M.A., Teaching Colorado.
12. Leslie Gonzales, Pursuing PH.D., University of Texas-El Paso.
13. Burt Wallar, Pursuing PH.D., Oklahoma University.
14. Jason Royball, Pursuing PH.D. Flagstaff Arizona University.
15. Raminta Stockate, Pursuing PH.D., University of Kansas-Lawrence.
16. Stephen Apodaca, Pursuing PH.D., University of New York.

17. Melissa Vasques, Pursuing PH.D., Northern Colorado University.
18. Martina Huguin, Pursuing PH.D., University of Miami Florida.
19. Carl Montoya, Pursuing PH.D. program in Washing D.C., former Military Intelligence Officer.

Practicing Attorneys

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|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Jake Kirkpatrick, J.D., 7 th Ave. Las Vegas NM. | 2. Carlos Pacheco, J.D. |
| 3. J.R. Mueller, J.D., Pawly Law Firm, Albuquerque | 4. Maria Dominguez, J.D. |
| 5. Dennika Padilla, J.D., Washington D.C. | 6. Danielle Gonzales, J.D. |
| 7. Hector Balderas, J.D., Congressional Editor, | 8. Kevin Korte, J.D. |
| 9. Eloy Garcia, J.D., Santa Fe NM. | 10. Scot Piston, J.D. |
| 11. Marc Grano, J.D., 505 National Ave., Las Vegas | |

M.A. Graduates and Thesis

Candidates

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| 1. Tamarae McLaughlin, M.A. | 2. Paul Busch, M.A. Thesis |
| 3. Laura Montonya, M.A. | 4. Frank Casey, M.A. |
| 5. Hedy Trevino, Thesis Candidate | 6. Walter Kuntz, M.A. |
| 7. Debbie Salazar | 8. Ane Romero, Thesis Candidate |
| 9. Rebecca Lucero, M.A., Employed by Government Institution. | |

NMHU Students Pursuing

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Justin Harris, North East US | 2. Sandra McCaully, North East US |
| 3. Julia Martinez, UNM | 4. Erika Roper, Michigan |
| 5. Kristen Braclan, UNM | |

Currently Enrolled in MA Program

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|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Asong Folefac | 2. Loretta Lucero |
| 3. Jesse Lopez | 4. Lucy Brizal |
| 5. Carmen Lieberman-Vidal | 6. Robert Anaya |
| 7. Reina Revell | 8. Geraldine Saavedra |
| 9. Kimberly Valdez | 10. Dolores Griego |
| 11. Dale Wagner | 12. Enagha Enyong |
| 13. Shulamite Abany | 14. Lindsay Hill |
| 15. Philip Sanchez | 16. Marco Aragon |
| 17. Blaise Kingjisu | 18. Seandion Esquibel |
| 19. Benjamin Romero | 20. Jamie Ruhland |
| 21. Neil Carson | 22. Nicole Ortiz |

C. Use of Results:

Political Science faculty will study survey results to make appropriate modification in program/curricular changes.