

*Institutional Effectiveness Report
Academic Year 2014-2015
Political Science*

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Mission and Goals

Mission Statement:

The political science program provides instruction to enable all students to complete as part of their general education requirement an introductory-level course in political science that includes material dealing with the United States Constitution and Federalist Papers. Students may earn a major, minor, or collateral in political science. The program offers its majors a broad understanding of political phenomena, including political institutions, political processes, political behavior, political thought patterns, and contemporary political issues. The course of study for the major prescribes a set of core courses in the discipline's traditional sub-fields of American government, comparative politics, international relations, political philosophy, and political methodology. Students elect the remainder of their primary work from a range of course offerings pertaining to foreign and /or domestic American government and politics. The flexibility of the curriculum permits students to pursue a program of courses tailored to their individual interests and career goals. Graduates with a major in political science receive the broad training and develop the general competence in the discipline required to equip them for successful careers in journalism, politics, the military, public service and quasi-public agencies, commerce and industry, teaching, and other occupations for which preparation in the field is desirable, or to undertake postgraduate professional study in political science, public administration, or related areas, such as law.

Goals:

Political Science majors will demonstrate knowledge of government and politics and of the terms, concepts, methods, theories, and principles of political science.

Political Science graduates will be prepared to successfully pursue graduate degrees, or enter employment in positions in business, government, or public service.

Political Science faculty will provide quality instruction in every class.

The Political Science faculty will strive to offer a full array of courses in the discipline to ensure a sufficient list of course offerings each semester.

Assessment Activities

The political science program utilized three assessment tools in 2014-2015.

These are:

1) The administration of an internal exam created by program faculty. This exam has been used as an assessment tool for many years. The exam was substantially revised in Fall 2009 and administered in Spring 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. In Spring 2012 a study guide to help students prepare for the internal exam was provided to the students one week before the administration of the exam. In Spring 2013 the study guide was revised and expanded. Results are reported for Spring 2003 through Spring 2015.

2) The gathering of student evaluation data concerning the quality of instruction by faculty. This is based on question # 7 (“overall, the quality of instruction in the course was...” with a response of excellent being one (1)) on the University’s student course and instruction evaluation form. Results are reported for Spring 2010 through Fall 2014.

3) The administration of an exit survey for political science majors. This survey was developed in Fall 2009/ Spring 2010 and administered for the sixth time in Spring 2015.

II. Faculty Activities

A. Political Science Faculty Profile

There are eight full-time faculty members in the Political Science program, four of whom are tenured, three are tenure-track, and one is an instructor. One tenured faculty member had a reduced course load because she is Director of the McNair Center for Research and Service.

B. Travel awards, REAL grants, summer research fellowships, and other internal funding

Faculty members received professional development and departmental funds to attend the following conferences this academic year: European Political Science Association, European Union Studies Association, International Studies Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association, South Carolina Political Science Association, Western Political Science Association and the Popular Culture Association in the South/American Culture Association in the South.

C. Student trips and clubs

Political Science faculty were active in a variety of student clubs and trips this academic year. Faculty advised and led the FMU Model United Nations class to New York City, chaperoned the Fall FMU Honors trip to Philadelphia, served as President of the FMU chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, and chaperoned the McNair Scholars Spring Break Trip to England and Ireland.

D. New courses offered

One faculty member offered a course on European Integration for the first time during the Late Spring Semester. Ten students took the course, which was in conjunction with the Europäische Akademie Otzenhausen.(a/k/a the European Academy at Otzenhausen), located in Saarland, Germany, and which

included a ten-day trip to Europe, including trips to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg City, and the European Commission and European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium.

E. Publications and other research activity

One faculty member published a book titled *Career Behaviour and the European Parliament: All Roads Lead Through Brussels?* The publisher is Oxford University Press, one of the premier academic publishers of political science research. The same faculty member also had a chapter published in an edited volume. The chapter title is “The Europeanization of the Turkish parliament” with Basak Yavcan (pp. 65-85 in *The Europeanization of Turkey: Polity and Politics*, edited by Aylin Guney and Ali Tekin, Routledge Press 2015).

Other faculty members continued their research on: President Gerald Ford (which included research trips to presidential libraries in Michigan and California), interest group lobbying of the U.S. Supreme Court, President Obama’s foreign policy strategy, and the development of marriage law.

F. Conference participation

Faculty members presented papers at the following conferences this academic year: European Political Science Association, European Union Studies Association, International Studies Association, International Studies Association-South, Midwest Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association, and Western Political Science Association. The Program also served as the host of the 2015 annual meeting of the South Carolina Political Science Association.

G. Administrative leadership

As stated previously, one faculty member is Director of the McNair Center for Research and Service.

H. Faculty governance activity

Program faculty participated in many aspects of shared governance. Faculty members served on the following committees: Academic Affairs, CLA Elections, Grade Appeals, Honors, Library, Professional Development, and the Faculty Senate.

I. Other professional service

One faculty member serves as President of the FMU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). Several faculty members participated in FMU undergraduate scholarship interviews.

J. Invited speakers

During the Spring 2015 semester, guest speakers for Political Science 202: State and Local Government included:

John Sweeney, Pee Dee Field Representative for U.S. Congressman Tom Rice
David Alford, Director of Elections and Voter Registration, Florence County
Chris Wells, Executive Budget Office, State of South Carolina
Scotty Bowman, Director of Community Services and Human Resources, City of Florence
Octavia Williams-Blake, Councilwoman, City of Florence

STUDENT EVALUATION OF QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION

Faculty

TERM	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Spring 2010	1.64	1.34	1.43	1.19	1.74	1.58	--
Fall 2010	1.19	1.73	1.61	1.90	1.72	1.64	--
Spring 2011	1.06	1.26	1.50	1.59	1.60	1.75	2.11
Fall 2011	1.19	1.42	1.46	1.54	1.56	1.58	2.21
Spring 2012	1.45	1.54	1.62	1.68	1.74	2.06	--
Fall 2012	1.10	1.29	1.39	1.48	1.51	1.70	1.92
Spring 2013	1.21	1.27	1.28	1.48	1.60	1.72	1.73
Fall 2013	1.05	1.37	1.40	1.53	1.62	1.68	1.71
Spring 2014	1.71	1.12	2.18	1.48	1.82	1.37	--
Fall 2014	1.37	1.43	1.49	1.65	1.42	1.23	1.29

Numbering of each faculty member is completely random for each period of reporting.

Results from exit survey of Political Science Majors
 The percent of students who gave each response is reported.

1. Perceptions of program quality (all questions begin with “to what extent has the political science program prepared you to...”

RESPONSES

	Well Prepared	Somewhat Prepared	Uncertain/Neutral	Somewhat Unprepared	Unprepared
Understand Political Science as a science of political behavior	61.54%	15.38%	15.38%	7.69%	0%
Understand and appreciate how the scientific method can be utilized to study politics	23.08%	38.46%	23.08%	15.38%	0%
Understand the major theories and issues of Political Science	53.85%	30.77%	15.38%	0%	0%
Understand the political institutions and processes of the American Political System	53.85%	23.08%	7.69%	15.38%	0%
Appreciate your role as a citizen in the American political system	69.23%	7.69%	7.69%	7.69%	7.69%
Understand the political processes of other countries, regions, and the international system	23.08%	53.85%	15.38%	7.69%	0%
Engage in critical thinking about political issues	53.85%	23.08%	23.08%	0%	0%
Become aware of career options for political science majors	38.46%	30.77%	15.38%	15.38%	0%

2. Perceptions of program quality in specific areas:

RESPONSES

	Good	Somewhat Good	Uncertain/Neutral	Somewhat Poor	Poor
Availability of course offerings	46.15%	38.46%	0%	7.69%	7.69%
Extent to which class objectives were specified on the syllabus in your courses	76.92%	15.38%	0%	7.69%	0%
Extent to which class objectives were met in your courses	66.67%	16.67%	16.67%	0%	0%
Overall quality of the instructional methods used in the classroom including lectures, demonstrations, etc.	61.54	30.77%	0%	7.69%	0%
Overall quality of the use of instructional technology in the classroom	46.15%	30.77%	15.38%	0	7.69%
Overall fairness of grading in your political science courses	53.85%	30.77%	7.69%	7.69%	0%
Overall quality of your political science courses	61.54%	23.08%	7.69%	7.69%	0%

3. Perceptions of political science faculty's performance in specific areas:

RESPONSES

	Good	Somewhat Good	Uncertain/Neutral	Somewhat Poor	Poor
Overall knowledge of subject matter of faculty	84.62%	7.69%	0	7.69%	0%
Overall conduct of courses by faculty	69.23%	7.69%	15.38%	0%	7.69%
Treatment of students in the classroom by faculty	69.23%	15.38%	7.69%	0%	7.69%
Approachability and availability of faculty	61.54%	23.08%	0%	15.38%	0%
Advising by faculty	69.23%	23.08%	0%	7.69%	0%

AVERAGE SCORES ON POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNAL EXAM

TERM	N	AVERAGE SCORE
Spring 2003	20	58.3
Spring 2004	20	58.9
Spring 2005	14	57.6
Spring 2006	20	72.6
Spring 2007	19	66.4
Spring 2008	22	69.8
Spring 2009	19	62.7
Spring 2010	22	75.36
Spring 2011	22	65.82
Spring 2012	15	96.67
Spring 2013	22	81.09
Spring 2014	10	66.xx
Spring 2015	13	61.23

4. What do you see as the primary strengths of the Political Science program? Why?

1. Definitely the qualities of the professors!!
 - qualified
 - approachable
 - Care about their students outside of the classroom

Organizing and structuring the material professors have for the students. Gives students a chance to really have everything prepared when it is time to take a test.

Critical thinking. Because almost all courses in the Political Science Department strengthen the critical thinking of students. Also the department emphasizes the importance of politics.

The professors in this department are highly intelligent. Any question I ever had always received and answer.

I see the primary strengths of the Political Science program being several things. One was the approachability of the professors. If I were ever unclear of something or needed clarification of something I could always go to them. The program also did a good job of preparing me for my future after college.

The primary strength is that the professors actually help you acknowledge the information and learn it. The professors are here for you to exceed in life.

The faculty know their subjects very well and they teach the material good and they are nice and helpful. It gives a student a choice of 2 different degrees that can be earned in political science like a B.S. or a B.A. as well as it can be a concentration in criminal justice or sociology.

One of the strengths is the professors. I believe the political science program has majority of the most interactive, vibrant professors. The quality of each instruction & lecture is relevant with today's issues and the courses.

The Professors. They are very knowledgeable of subject matter, and very helpful if you have any problems or concerns.

Knowledge of the faculty. There were rarely times they didn't know the answer to something.

One primary strength is that anyone who wants to go to law school is well prepared and knows all the right people to talk to.

The instructors – availability & working with students

The variety of classes & the ability to pretty much pick an area that you like. This is important b/c political science is very broad

5. What do you see as the primary weaknesses of the Political Science program? Why?

2. Not enough women!
 - Male dominated

Encouraging and offering internships opportunities

The program doesn't have any major weaknesses. However there are a few professors that do not know how to talk to students.

Overall I believe the political science program treated me very well and did not find any primary weaknesses.

The weakness is to give more examples in the teaching materials to help students understand the work better.

Maybe just a few more other classes for the concentration of criminal justice.

A weakness would be that all of the interesting courses are the 200s & 300s courses. This most likely isn't a real criticism, but I do wish the courses were as interesting when I first started.

NO graduate programs. Many students love the environment here at Francis Marion and hate the fact that they are unable to further their education here at FMU.

Timeless on grading materials. I think returning graded papers etc seems to take too long. Also not going over potential job opportunities.

One weakness is that as political scientists I don't think you all realize that not everyone wants to be a politician or a lawyer or even a professor. You all may have to consider that law enforcement is a great option and sometimes students need help in that area as well.

- No support @ campus job fairs
- The job fairs apparently cater to 1 particular major . . .

I believe there should be more awareness of our local government.

6. What major changes do you think would improve the Political Science program?

Less emphasis on students memorizing material, and focus on ensuring that students understand concepts and apply them outside of the classroom.

I think they could have more political science courses involving politicians and criminal law.

Encourage and offer student more internships opportunities

The program is fine the way it is.

I cannot think of any major changes needed in the Political Science program. There could be some slight improvement in the availability of some of the courses.

Is to make sure all the professors know what there [sic] teaching and to be prepared ahead of time.

Maybe a wider range of internships thought [sic] the department

Perhaps, adding extracurricular activities (visit courts, introduce public speakers). Bring the individuals we talk about into the class.

Introduction of a MPA program! More classes offered by Dr. Warters and Dr. White of course!!!

Maybe a more variety of different courses. Going over potential job opportunities with students.

Not expecting students to know everything. The only thing that students have in common is that we are all in college.

Instructors getting to “know” the students & their ‘out of class’ situations (to a degree)

I believe that there should be a senior seminar class for seniors other than for political theory to be “the senior level class.” Political theory was completely off course from any other course I have taken. It taught many of my classmates & myself nothing from a political science standpoint. It was well taught however, had very little relevance.

7. What do you plan to do after you graduate? Please be as specific as you can- if you have a job, tell us where you will work. If you are going on to graduate school, tell us at what school you will enroll and in what program you will enroll.

I have no idea.

Right now I'm thinking about going back overseas to work and when I get back to the states I want to do homeland security.

Go to law school

Right now I am a personal trainer and a victim advocate at the Pee Dee Coalition. I plan on going to Coker to get my masters in Athletic Administration.

Once I graduate I will be participating in a program called Teach for America. In this program I will be teaching secondary English in a school somewhere in South Carolina. Once I have done this for two years I plan to go back to school and pursue my goal of becoming a professor.

Going to graduate school online @ Capella Uni.
Working @ Darlington High School @ the WIA program.
My program is public adm: w/a concentration in public leadership.
I plan on after grad. school then go to law school.

I plan and hope to get a job in the law enforcement field and I am currently looking and applying for local, state and federal law enforcement jobs as we speak.

I plan to go to graduate school & I am currently applying to Emory University, Washington State, and Penn State. I'm looking forward to leaving South Carolina, if not for graduate school, then perhaps for a job offer.

I have a job offer now to work as a Regional Field Director for the Pee Dee Area for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. However, I've been accepted to law school and plan to attend full-time.

I plan to work or find employment in law enforcement. Then maybe a little later go to graduate school to pursue Masters in Public Administration.

I have applied to six different law enforcement departments and I've heard back from three of them. I also plan to attend Capella University Online to get my masters of public administration. My ultimate goal is to either work for FBI and/or help kids gain a sense of understanding in their lives, maybe through juvenile probation.

I hope to be promoted within my present company (Quest Diagnostics) Not certain about graduate school --

I plan to go into sales/find a salary job and get my MBA

8. Other comments and suggestions.

Great department and great instructors. I truly enjoyed all of my courses and feel very prepared for law school and as a person. Thank you.

Thanks for an amazing four years!

I would just like to say that I have enjoyed every moment during my time in the political science program. I have truly liked and looked up to every political science professor I have had here and hope to maintain a relationship with them. This program has helped shape me into who I am today and I will take the things I have learned here with me in whatever it is I do in the future.

I will miss Francis Marion Uni. I build a lot of bonds here w/ professors.

This program was an enjoyable one and I am thankful for all of the faculty of the Political Science department who have prepared [me] well for any job that I take in the political science field and law enforcement field.

I appreciate all the knowledge, advise [sic], & time I've gotten to spend with many of the professors from the Political Science Program. Thank you.

Thank you and the entire Political Science staff for all you have done. I've learned a lot over these last four years!!!

Thank you all I have learned something from everyone of you the good bad and the ugly

What happens to the 'grade' from our Exit Exam?
Political Science Faculty: Majority of faculty are awesome!