

## 2008 Outcomes Assessment

Intended Outcome	Expectations Within Intended Outcome	Relevant Course/Curricular Element	Measure	Results	Actions Based on Results
I. Majors will understand and be able to interrelate the leading theories, literature and approaches in the subfields of American government, political theory and methods, international relations and comparative politics		Undergraduate courses in Political Science	Senior Surveys	Highest rankings of satisfaction to “Understanding the substance of politics” and “Understanding the Political Process”	
			Senior Focus Group	Consistently cite broad exposure to the field as a principle objective of the major  Consistently cite curricular flexibility and diversity as program strengths  Express desire for larger faculty and greater breadth of courses	Degree requirements changed from two courses to three credits per subfield, allowing more flexibility for students, in hiring, and in scheduling
			Alumni survey data	Rank satisfaction on understanding others, cultures and political processes higher than importance. On combined results, satisfaction with “understanding substance of politics” and “the political processes” are two highest ranking items  Satisfaction is clearly much lower for ability to “write effectively” and “use computers adequately” than is importance.	
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		Element			
			Placement data	Increased variety in initial placement of BA graduates	
Majors will be able to analyze and formulate effective argumentation in written and oral forms, including ...	...the ability to appreciate and accommodate diverse political ideas and		Alumni Survey	Satisfaction with oral communication and ability to use computers ranked lower than. Satisfaction with computer use improved markedly in 2004 survey.	
			Senior Survey	Writing, critical thinking and oral communication rated highest in importance; all rated lower in satisfaction, with oral communication seeing the most significant disparity.	Referred to Undergraduate Committee for discussion/action
			Senior Focus Group	Consistently identify analytical reasoning and ability to accommodate multiple perspectives among program's strengths  Indicate desire for more development in oral communication and more meaningful writing	Pol S 495 was changed from a "Senior Seminar" to "Capstone Project in Political Science" to provide additional opportunities for students to participate in service learning and research experiences.  Referred to Undergraduate Committee for discussion/action
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	<p>...the ability to collect and critique information in ideas of others in support of original arguments</p>	<p>English Proficiency requirement: Minimum C+ in Eng. 104 and 105 or minimum of C in 309 or 314.</p> <p>Research &amp; writing within major</p>	<p>1997 Faculty Writing Survey</p>	<p>Level of writing activity in high, but quality of writing needs improvement</p>	<p>English Proficiency standard changed to add significant paper written in upper-division Pol S class with grade of "B" or better</p> <p>English Proficiency standard changed with 2001 catalog to add satisfactory completion of Pol S 395, Advanced Writing in Political Science.</p> <p>Pol S 491x "Senior Thesis" to provide opportunities for advanced research for students intending to pursue graduate study</p>
			<p>Pol S 395 Assessments</p>	<p>First cohort completing 395 graduate in 2006, so numbers are still low. For those with submitted rubrics, thesis construction rated highest; usage and mechanics ranked lowest.</p> <p>Faculty express dissatisfaction with 395 as a developmental writing experience.</p>	<p>Results referred to Undergraduate Committee for discussion/action</p>

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			Senior Focus Groups	<p>Consistently cite writing, analytical reasoning and argumentation as among the most significant skills development through the major</p> <p>Cite desire for increased development of oral presentation skills, and more meaningful writing and research experience</p>	<p>Focus Group summaries shared with Undergraduate Committee for discussion</p> <p>University phrases in “ISU Comm” to develop writing, oral, visual and electronic communication skills via English 150 (freshman year), English 250 (sophomore year) and a writing course defined by the major department (Pol S 395)</p>
			Alumni survey data	<p>Ability to “write effectively” highest ranked highest in importance in 2004 survey; satisfaction is notably lower.</p> <p>Most significant gaps between importance and satisfaction are found in “thinking quantitatively” and “work effectively in groups”.</p> <p>Alumni rank the importance to “think quantitatively” much higher than do seniors, levels of satisfaction are similar.</p>	
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			LSAT scores	Mean scores of majors are consistently above the national mean, with mean scores increasing over time.	
Majors will appreciate the knowledge and civic responsibilities required for effective participation in political life			Senior Focus Groups	Indicate wish for more attention given to career development and information	Consider reinstating career-related "Brown Bag" programs for undergraduates
			Degree Program Analysis	Increased participation in internships	Dept. assigns faculty to coordinate internships  Weekly electronic newsletter developed to disseminate information on department news, internships, scholarships, and events.  Need to establish process to better assess internship experiences