

**Political Science Department  
Undergraduate Program Assessment  
April 15, 2009**

**Program Review Standards and Areas to be addressed**

***1. The department /program's mission supports the university's mission***

**“Southern Connecticut State University provides exemplary graduate and undergraduate education in the liberal arts and professional disciplines. As an intentionally diverse and comprehensive university, Southern is committed to academic excellence, access, social justice, and service for the public good.” SCSU Mission Statement**

The political science department seeks to have its undergraduate majors become active citizens and professionals through by acquiring a sound knowledge of the discipline, developing analytic and problems solving abilities to understand and respond to the rapid economic, political, social and cultural changes occurring at the beginning of a new century. Students will be prepared to critical examine, understand, and appreciate the larger environment and to seek a vital role in their local governments, society and the larger environment. The department considers academic excellence, social justice, diversity, and good citizenship as major components of its contribution to a sound liberal arts education at Southern.

***2. The department/program has clearly stated programs goals and objectives.***

The members of the political science department have developed a number of program goals and objectives that we believe will greatly assist our students in being well-educated citizens successful in their chosen careers, and who an interest in life-long learning. The programs goals will lead undergraduate majors to

**Program Goal #1** develop a knowledge of the key theories, concepts and practical applications of political science in order to be better informed active citizens seeking to promote social justice and service to their larger community.

**Program Goal #2** acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to meet their personal career and learning interests.

**Program Goal #3** be active citizens and consumers of political information by understanding ethical dilemmas and the problems of political decision-making.

**Program Goal #4** be successful life-time learners, citizens, and professionals by developing and sharpening their analytical skills.

**Program Goal #5** develop problem-solving skills to enhance their knowledge, career aspirations, interactions with politics, and general well-being.

***3. The department/program has clearly stated program-level expected student outcomes and methods for measurement.***

Our program has developed a series of student outcomes based on faculty discussion. It is expected that students completing our program will

**Student Outcome #1:** have a comprehensive knowledge of the discipline in terms of theories definitions, concepts, and practices.

**Methods of Measurement:** course examinations, written essays and papers, class participation and projects

**Student Outcome #2:** have enhanced their personal goals (career, knowledge, continued learning).

**Methods of Measurement:** course work, membership Pre-Law Society & Political Science Honor Society, internships, student surveys

**Student Outcome #3:** have developed a sound understanding of the ethical issues facing public officials by examining their individual, group, or governmental decisions.

**Methods of Measurement:** evaluations of various domestic and foreign government practices, case-studies, writing essays, exams

**Student Outcome #4:** have developed their analytical skills.

**Methods of Measurement:** comparing and contrasting various theories, case-studies, evaluating quantitative data for research paper and the capstone seminar

**Student Outcome #5:** have developed sound problem-solving skills.

**Methods of Measurement:** class projects requiring analysis and causes of current political and policy problems and possible solutions, assess of current government programs through internship papers and the capstone seminar

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