

COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM REVIEW

SELF-STUDY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

SPRING 2016

For evaluation term from 2009-2016

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Executive Summary for the Political Science Program

This report was prepared in conjunction with Dr. Ted Becker, Ph.D. and full professor at Auburn University, Dr. Michael Bailey, Chair, Department of Criminal Justice at Columbus State University and Dr. Nicholas Bolden, Assistant Professor at Columbus State University.

The political science program at Columbus State is a viable functioning department. The department continues to grow. It currently has 9 full-time faculty and 65 majors. The major challenges stem from how faculty are used. This report will address the significant weaknesses and strengths of the program and conclude with a cogent policy recommendation.

- 1) There is a problem in terms of full-time faculty teaching a disproportionate number of Introduction to American Government classes. This causes departmental stagnation whereby faculty are not teaching upper-division classes. This inhibits the major because few upper-division courses are offered. It is hoped that there will be an increase in the number of political science majors to 2011 numbers where there were 115 majors.
- 2) There is some concern regarding teaching loads for senior faculty. The 4-4 teaching load presents challenges because faculty have to spend a significant amount of time grading papers, holding office hours as well as teaching. This may present an impediment for faculty to engage in an active research agenda. This has the potential to cause challenges in either post-tenure review or with efforts to apply for full professor status.
- 3) The next challenge is research funding. It is imperative that faculty have the opportunity to attend and present at research conferences. However, due to limited resources, it is difficult to fund a professor fully to attend a conference.
- 4) There are also challenges regarding faculty obtaining awards. There was no clear set of standards in this area. This has the potential to inhibit departmental collegiality as well as scholarship. This has proven to be problematic in the tenure and promotion area.
- 5) The Departmental major numbers have dropped to a low of 65 students. Strategic efforts must be implemented to create opportunities for the major to grow.

There are several key important strengths as well. The most notable one is with curriculum development and service. The major has several checkpoints which prevent students from approaching the major randomly. Instead, students must take Introduction to American Government and then follow a queue of classes that lead students to take upper-division political science classes. The most notable sequence is that students must take State and Local Government and Introduction to Political Science before advancing to other classes. They also must take Statistics and Methods before they can take upper-division classes. This rarifies the major and creates a higher level of student accountability. Another significant feature is that faculty have actively sought to develop programs to attract new students. This includes a host of presentations as well as moderating political forums and debates.

There also has been a conscientious effort to recruit more qualified faculty. Four new assistant professors were hired from nationally accredited universities. This will add greater depth and legitimacy to the program. Further, there needs to be a mentor-mentee program to allow junior faculty to develop in a proper and measured way.

Overall, the Political Science section of the department has experienced dramatic change in the past year. The goals are ambitious. The major must be increased. There needs to be a restructuring of the Introduction to American Government classes. One possible solution is to have larger classes sizes but offer few sections. This could allow more full time faculty to teach upper division classes. It is also advisable to add another full time faculty member with a specialty in social policy. This addition would be a benefit to both political science and public administration. Another program strength is course curriculum. The challenge is for all of the listed classes to be taught. The scheduling process is daunting and more full time faculty need to be recruited.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: **Satisfactory -**

SECTION ONE: Brief Program Overview

Description of Program: The major in Political Science leads to the Bachelor of Arts Degree. Political scientists study government at all stages in their development, the process by which political decisions are made and various matters that affect government behavior. The specific subfields of the discipline include American government and politics, comparative government and politics, international relations, political theory, public law, and public administration. Students majoring in the program have traditionally pursued careers in law, business, teaching, journalism, and government. The study of Political Science is of value in that all persons need an understanding of the political system which governs their lives. More than minimal knowledge of political systems, however is required for those who would be employed by them. The law and public administration, for example are creatures of government and politics.

Program Mission: It is the purpose of the Department of Political Science and MPA to prepare the student for a life of citizenship and professionalism. Towards this end, the department offers the Bachelor of Arts and the Master of Public Administration programs, leading to their corresponding degrees. Further, the department serves this end through the availability of several program options and appropriate courses. The latter are designed to provide both a needed body of information as well as the opportunity to develop such crucial tools as critical thinking.

The faculty teaching the department courses are fully qualified, holding PhD or JD degrees from various and recognized institutions, and commanding different areas of specialization. Finally, it is to be noted that the department keeps abreast of new developments through professional activities appropriate to the discipline, and that it checks on the relevancy and adequacy of its offerings through the feedback received from its graduates, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Based on the successful track record of these graduates, the Department of Political Science takes pride in its contribution to the success of its students and to the life of this university.

The Department of Political Science offers courses in all major parts of the discipline (American politics, political theory, comparative politics, international relations, public administration, political behavior/policy and law in the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree. The graduate program section has information on the Master of Public Administration degree. A political science degree is a pathway to law school, graduate school, or employment with government agencies or private sector organizations (businesses, interest groups, research organizations). While no specific undergraduate major is required for law school, the political science program addresses the communication skills, critical understanding of institutions, behaviors and values, and analytical thinking recommended for the study of law.

Stakeholder's Satisfaction with the Program – Satisfactory

There are several stakeholders. They include the general community, employers, current and former students. Survey data is needed to make a firm determination here on program satisfaction. However, there has been concerted efforts to recruit more qualified faculty.

Relationship of Program to Needs of Students and Societal Demands

The natural link is the stated program objectives

-Demonstrate knowledge of the discipline of political science in terms of its history, content, purpose and methodologies

-Demonstrate knowledge of the sub-fields of political science (American politics, political theory, comparative politics, international relations, public administration, political behavior/policy, and law)

demonstrate the ability to analyze materials (e.g. data, texts), and to think critically

- demonstrate the effective ability to communicate orally
- demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in writing be prepared to achieve their personal goals with regard to intellectual and social skills be prepared to achieve their personal goals with regard to governmental employment, private employment, graduate and/or professional school

SECTION 2 – Indicators of Program Quality - Satisfactory

Appropriateness of Faculty Credentials- The Political Science Department has nine faculty that hold PhDs. There is a part time faculty pool of 3-5 part time instructors. These faculty have earned Phds, Masters and/or Law degrees. There has been an effort to hire faculty who have earned their doctorates from legitimate and accredited national universities.

Part Time Faculty Satisfactory- Part time faculty teach American Government and upper level policy related classes. There needs to be a greater attempt at having part time faculty teach more introduction to American Government classes. Full time faculty have been teaching as many as three sections of American government while offering few upper division classes. This is a poor way to develop a program.

Diversity of faculty Satisfactory– There are seven full time male faculty and 2 full time female faculty. Seven of the full time faculty are Caucasian, one African American and one Asian. All of the time part time faculty are Caucasian. Clearly there is a need for greater diversity in the political science department

Opportunities for Faculty Development – Below Average

Faculty have the opportunity to research and present their research at annual political science conference. Faculty have participated in the Georgia Political Science Conference in Savannah, Southern Political, Western and Midwestern Political Science conferences at various locations. The central concern is that faculty are need more funding to attend even one program. At times, it is very difficult to cover all faculty expenses even for one conference.

Program Improvement Plans: - Satisfactory -

Program improvement plans must focus on retention, progression and graduation rates as well as have qualified and productive faculty. This must also be aligned with relevant and diverse course offerings and utilizing education events related to political science. The main challenge is that there are not enough faculty to teach upper division classes. This in turn, limits the number of upper division offerings in political science

Quality of Teaching-Satisfactory

There are 9 full time faculty and 3 part time adjunct positions. Good teaching in terms of evaluations must reflect overall averages of 4.0/5. Overall faculty have met and exceeded those standards. Another function of strong teaching is class size. This has been a problem where several upper division classes have been cancelled due to low enrollment. Another key component is to avoid faculty burnout. This can be achieved by having faculty rotate teaching assignments. To date, this has not occurred. However, efforts will be made to manage political science 1101 evenly so that full time faculty are not teaching 3 or 4 sections of this class.

Indicators of Good Advising - Satisfactory

Advising for the freshmen and sophomore has been done primarily through the Academic Center for Excellence. However, juniors and seniors are advised by political science faculty. The best indicators of good advising are that students are able to take the necessary classes on time. This also translates into effective retention, progression and graduation rates. The key is that students' graduations are not delayed. There have been a few isolated graduation delays. However, advisement has not generally been the issue. It has more to do with students not completing classes and taking incomplete and then never acting on them.

Departmental Reward System – Below Average

This has been a controversial area. The Departmental Reward System can be broken down into three parts. 1) Pretenure review, Tenure and Post Tenure Review. The pretenure review is designed to measure that faculty are meeting departmental and university publishing guidelines as well as satisfactory levels in teaching and service. Tenure requires three peer reviewed articles or its equivalency. Post Tenure review requires that faculty members publish two peer reviewed articles in five years. Unfortunately, there has been some confusion over what constitutes peer review. Further, there is a problem in distinguishing sole and multiple authorship for an article. It seems specious at best for a faculty member who is one of several authors to receive the same credit as a sole author. Further, faculty should be encouraged to publish in their own individual areas of interest. Furthermore, faculty need to be encouraged to develop current course offerings. The Departmental Reward Systems needs to acknowledge faculty achievements and find forums and opportunities for them to present and publish their research. Overseas teaching opportunities should be used to award faculty merit.

Program Improvement Plan - Satisfactory

The Department of Political Science can improve its quality of teaching by strategically positioning its faculty. This means having full time faculty teach a balance of both upper and lower division classes. Students should receive a program development plan that can help them track and plan their classes. The departmental tenure system needs to be reviewed by the faculty so that it can function on a clear merit based system. All of these suggestions must include faculty involvement and participation. There also has been an ongoing focus to recruit more competent full time faculty. Four new full time faculty have joined the Department of Political Science for the 2016-2017 academic year. However, two more things must occur. There needs to be an equitable balance in the number of Intro to American Government classes that are taught. Second, there needs to be additional faculty hired. More upper division classes are needed if the department is to grow. Currently, there are only 65 registered political science majors.

QUALITY OF RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP –Below Average

This is a very integral step for departmental validation. Good research leads to good teaching. This is a recursive relationship. Research opportunities must be encouraged. To date, the department needs to improve its publication output. There have been efforts to engage students within departmental research. The student magazine Momentum has featured several political science students. Good research can be characterized as journal articles, authored books and book reviews.

Opportunities for Student Research Projects -Satisfactory

This is a seminal area which can enhance the department in multiple ways. Overall, the main impact has been through Momentum Magazine. Students have also presented their research at Georgia and Midwest Political Science Conferences. Some students have channeled this opportunity as part of their application process to apply to graduate school. More student research opportunities are needed. Faculty should be encouraged to have top political science students gather and code data for them when appropriate.

Faculty Publications, Presentations, and Grants-Below Average

This area could be improved upon. Over the past 7 years, the department has produced two edited books and a few peer reviewed journal articles. Faculty have regularly presented papers at annual political science conferences. However, it remains to be seen as to whether presentations leads to successful journal submissions. There have been a few grants within the department. The now defunct Social Research Center had acquired a Federal Housing and Urban Development Grant. However, it did lead to any departmental publications. The current department chair, received a grant to interview former Freedom Riders living in Southwest Georgia. Currently, 10 interviews have been conducted. The plan is to conduct 25-30 interviews and then turn the interviews into a living history document which will include a published book. Overall, faculty need to be encouraged to research. One of the challenges is the heavy teaching loads particularly on senior faculty. 4-4 teaching loads is not advisable especially when two or three of the classes are Introduction to American government.

Program Improvement Plans – The best plan is for faculty to continue to attend conferences and obtain development grants that original research could be conducted. There will also be a mentor/mentee program which will pair up senior faculty with new faculty. This will ensure that new faculty are on pace to pass their Pre-Tenure review period or correct any existing deficiencies. There should also be a plan for new faculty to publish articles from their thesis and if possible secure university book contracts as well.

Quality of Service – Above average

There are several activities that will enhance faculty service. First, faculty should be encouraged to develop outreach plans to recruit new students. Current programs have addressed national, state and local debates. The Department co-sponsored “A March to Selma” and participated Presidents Day in Plains, Georgia. Department Service has also featured Constitution Day which is a faculty sponsored lecture event. Faculty have participated in the Diversity Planning Day. Faculty also speak at the Library lecture series. There is also the Hallock Lecture series which is popular among students and is co-sponsored by the department of political science. Faculty serve on the College Personnel Committee and post tenure committee. Some faculty work directly with the media and appear on local television. Some faculty write op-ed pieces for the Ledger Enquirer. One faculty member serves on the board for the River Valley Regional Commission. Another faculty member serves as a mediator for the local courts.

Program Improvement Plan

The main focus should be directed towards new faculty and encourage them to pursue and balance their service component. New faculty should be encouraged to pursue one service component at time whether it is serving on a committee or directing an educational event. Research and teaching should not be diminished in lieu of service.

QUALITY OF FACULTY AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS-Satisfactory

Faculty have received the best writer award, the Bill Chappel Graduate Faculty Award, Best Teacher of the university award and some faculty have received significant merit based salary increases. However, there needs to be greater oversight from the university towards award evaluation. The highest levels of meritocracy must be practiced at all times. Faculty should be encouraged to produce original research which will add value to any perceived awards etc.

Students have received the Best Political Science award. There also is the Mario Mion Faculty award which also recognizes the achievement of the top political science students. Actually, this is a very strong point within the program. These awards are reserved for the top students. These are exceptional students and have gone to graduate or law schools to further their education. Some of these students have also found excellent jobs within the political science field.

Graduate Achievements – The MPA program is currently being restructured to achieve national accreditation. Most faculty are currently employed upon entering the program. However, students will be encouraged to apply for nationally competitive programs such as the Presidential Management Fellows program. Three new policy tracks, Urban, Environmental, and Political Campaigns have been added to the MPA program. The plan is to make the program competitive nationally.

Quality of Curriculum –Satisfactory plus

The Departmental curriculum is strong. The best feature is that it is measured. Students must political science classes in a specific order to ensure that they complete the degree. The political science degree is designed that students must satisfy general core classes before they can start the major. This is a very good approach which tempers the random course selection approach. Students must satisfy both Statistics and Research Methods before they can take upper level classes. Similarly, students must satisfy Introduction to Political Science and State and Local Government before they can take upper level classes.

POLS - Political Science

POLS 1101. American Government (3-0-3) The constitutional framework, political processes, structures, and functions of the national government with reference to the state level. Satisfies state legislative requirements concerning United States and Georgia Constitutions.

POLS 2101. Introduction to Political Science (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 1101 with a grade of C or better. Introduction to the field of political science. Includes approaches to the study of politics, political ideologies, and the functions of law. Does not substitute for POLS 1101. Required of all political science majors.

POLS 2201. State and Local Government (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 1101 with a grade of C or better. The organization and functions of political power at the state and local level. Required of all Political Science majors. Satisfies state legislative requirements concerning Georgia Constitution.

POLS 2305. Workshop in International Organizations (0-3-3) Prerequisite: POLS 1101 with grade of "C" or better. The workings of international organizations via participation in model competitions or simulations.

POLS 2401. Global Issues (3-0-3) This courses introduces students to contemporary issues in global affairs. It assumes no prior knowledge of international relations. The course examines problems facing the global community, as well as the prospects for governments, individuals, and international groups to address those problems. Issues include population and demographics, natural resources and the environment, the globalization of the economy, terrorism and threats to security, development and technology, global security, ethics, human rights, and the role of the United States and other regional powers in world affairs.

POLS 2555. Selected Topics in Politics (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 1101 with a grade of C or better. This lower-division course will examine contemporary political issues. Topic will vary with the instructor.

POLS 3115. Methods of Political Analysis (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101; Co-Requisite: STAT 1127. Examination of the development of the discipline. Focuses on analytical techniques. Required of all Political Science majors.

POLS 3116. Theories of Racism (3-0-3) Prerequisites: POLS 1101 and 2101 with a minimum grade of C. This 3000-level political theory course focuses on understanding the history, nature, causes, variations, and political consequences of racism in the United States.

POLS 3117. Conflict Resolution (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101 with a grade of C or better. An analysis of the nature of conflict and the methods to resolve conflict with an emphasis on collaborative problem solving and mediation. A research project and supporting specialized reading will be required

POLS 3125. Introduction to International Political Economy (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101 with a grade of C or better. This course examines the relationship between politics and economics and how these fields impact American public policy. The course approaches the topic in the context of an increasingly competitive international system. Additionally, the course will examine the changing nature of the international system and the ongoing search for an optimal post-Cold War political-economic paradigm for contemporary international affairs.

POLS 3127. The Presidency (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101. An examination of the American presidency within the context of the political process, with reference to the historical development of the office, and to the domestic and international roles of the office.

POLS 3128. The Legislative Process (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101. An examination of legislative structures, functions and procedures in light of influences, expected outcomes, responsiveness to political context.

POLS 3129. Judicial Process (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101 with a grade of C or better. The functioning of the judiciary in the American political system and its impact on political, social, and economic institutions.

POLS 3133. Introduction to Political Theory (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101 with a grade of "C" or better. This class is designed to critically examine the writings of major Western political theorists such as Plato, Machiavelli, Locke, Mill, and Marx from an historical perspective, and analyze their relevance to contemporary political issues and concerns.

POLS 3134. Feminist Political Thought (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101. This course will enable students to identify the social interaction processes that seem to maintain continuity in gender-related behavior, identify the contemporary norms associated with hegemonic masculinity and analyze the consequence of those norms for men and their families, and explain how women from different racial or ethnic groups or economic classes differ in their perceptions and attitudes on feminist issues.

POLS 3137. American Political Thought (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101. Major currents of political thought which have justified, guided, or challenged the growth of the American Republic.

POLS 3138. Contemporary Political Thought (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101. Contemporary modes and currents of political thought, including modern ideologies and adaptations of classical theories.

POLS 3139. Asian Political Thought (3-0-3) Prerequisites: POLS 2101. A study of the philosophical and religious beliefs which have shaped Asian development, including those of Confucius, the Buddha, Sun Tzu, Mao Zhedong, and Kim Il Sung, as well as Hindu philosophy.

POLS 3141. Comparative Politics (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 3115. This course introduces the student into the comparative study of countries and governments with focus on governmental institutions and political processes, as well as the comparative study of demographics in those countries. Regions will vary with the instructor. Course may be taken up to three times if the topic varies.

POLS 3148. Religion and Politics (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101 with a grade of C or better. For much of the history of human civilization, political problems have been theological problems. The separation of the purely political from the purely theological is a recent development that has only involved a relatively small span of human lives. This course will examine the broad and deep contextual factors affecting political-religious thought and practice as well as the dynamic linking of religion and politics in the United States.

POLS 3155. Law School: Methods and Tactics (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101 with a grade of C or better. A comprehensive overview of the procedures and techniques essential for success in law school. Essential skills and strategies will be emphasized including writing skills, time management, the Socratic methodology, and trial tactics. Special emphasis is placed on inductive and deductive reasoning.

POLS 3161. American Constitutional Law (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101 with a grade of C or better. The effect of Supreme Court decisions on American society and on the development of the American political system.

POLS 3165. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101. This course provides an in-depth examination of American civil rights and civil liberties, focusing on the differences between them and how they have developed over time.

POLS 3185. Public Administration (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101. A study of the American bureaucracy with particular emphasis on the public sector.

POLS 3195. River Politics (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101 with a grade of C or better. In this class students will be introduced to one of the most strident riparian conflicts impacting the United States. Students will be exposed to a variety of sources addressing this issue (history, geography, economic, engineering, and political) By the end of the course it is hoped that students will have a strong enough background so that they can weigh on how to solve one of the most pressing water conflicts in the United States today.

POLS 3256. Politics in Film (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101. A study of the ways by which social and political meanings are generated through motion pictures. Because movies play a unique role in reinforcing and subverting American political culture, it is important to study films as they portray images of politics in America, Americans in politics, and American life relative to politics.

POLS 3555. Selected Topics In Political Science (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101. This course will examine issues related to government and institutions in the public sector. Topics will vary with the instructor. Course may be taken three times for credit only if the topic varies.

POLS 4155. International Relations (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101. A study of the nature of interaction among states with specific reference to contemporary international issues of major importance.

POLS 4166. International Law and Organizations (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101. A study of various attempts by the United Nations and other organizations to bring about peaceful settlement of international disputes. Disarmament and worldwide coordination of economic and social activities through efforts of international organizations are examined as well as legal settlement of international disputes and restraint of force in contemporary world problems. Course will also focus on international endeavors to develop law and order in interstate relations.

POLS 4175. Public Policy (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101. A study in selected policy areas and the process and impact of policy formulation.

POLS 4176. American Foreign Policy (3-0-3) Prerequisite: PPOLS 2101. Foreign policy of the United States with focus on procedures and resources used for the development and execution of America's foreign policy with particular emphasis on contemporary era.

POLS 4177. American Defense Policy (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101. Evolution, formulation, and implementation of American defense policy to include such topics as arms control, nuclear strategy, guerilla warfare, and terrorism.

POLS 4178. U.S. Foreign Policy in East Asia (3-0-3) Prerequisite: POLS 2101. The development of U.S. relations, conflicts, and alliances with Japan, the Koreas, and the nations of southeast Asia from the early 1800s to the present.

POLS 4698. Internship (0-0-{3-6}) Prerequisites: POLS 2101 and approval of Department Chair. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credit hours. Experience in the field with an approved agency or company under the supervision of the instructor. (S/U grading)

POLS 4899. Directed Study (0-0-{1-3}) Prerequisites: POLS 2101, 21 hours in POLS courses and approval of Department Chair. May be taken a maximum of 3 times for credit and may not substitute for any required POLS course.

POLS 6157. Environmental Policy (3-0-3) This course will analyze the role of American politics, economics, and culture in the formation of domestic and international environmental policies and laws.

POLS 6158. Environmental Justice (3-0-3) This course explores global environmental issues from a perspective that foregrounds questions of social justice.

The field of environmental justice asks for fair treatment of all people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, economic capacity, national origin, and education level with respect to environmental politics and their implementations.

POLS 7167. American Political Process and Policy-making (3-0-3) Institutions and processes of the American political system.

POLS 7177. National Security Policy (3-0-3) Evolution, formulation, and implementation of American national security policy.

POLS 7187. State and Local Government and Intergovernmental Relations (3-0-3) Interaction of American governments at the national, state, and local levels, including relations between governments at different levels.

POLS 7197. Comparative Administration (3-0-3) Structures and processes of government administration in differing social, cultural, and political environments.

POLS 7899. Independent Study (0-0-{1-3}) Prerequisite: Permission of the chair of the Department of Political Science and MPA Program. May be repeated under different topics for a total of six credit hours. (Course fee required.)

Relationship Between Program's Curriculum and Its Outcomes-Satisfactory

Political Science graduates will:

- demonstrate knowledge of the discipline of political science in terms of its history, content, purpose and methodologies
- demonstrate knowledge of the sub-fields of political science (American politics, political theory, comparative politics, international relations, public administration, political behavior/policy, and law)
- demonstrate the ability to analyze materials (e.g. data, texts), and to think critically
- demonstrate the effective ability to communicate orally
- demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in writing be prepared to achieve their personal goals with regard to intellectual and social skills be prepared to achieve their personal goals with regard to governmental employment, private employment, graduate and/or profess

There is a strong relationship between the program's curriculum and program outcomes. This has been evidenced through pre and post text scores for the American government class. However, more survey material will be needed to verify.

Utilization of Multidisciplinary Approaches-Satisfactory

There is a strong nexus with multidisciplinary approaches. Students can take upper division electives from other departments and even supplant them for upper division political science classes.

Utilization of Multicultural Perspectives-Satisfactory

This area needs some more work. More classes need to be generated regarding race, ethnicity and sexual orientation. However, we do have some classes which address civil rights and race and ethnicity concerns.

Program Improvement Plan-Satisfactory

The plan is to higher more diverse faculty and some with specialty with race and ethnicity concerns. Faculty should be encouraged offer a diversity component within each class when feasible.

Quality of Facilities and Equipment-Satisfactory

The main area of concern is the library. Students have access to computers and the Howard Hall renovations are very helpful. However, the library needs to carry more resources. Students who want to conduct advanced research, **must** rely on interlibrary loans. Sometimes such books either arrive too late or the hold time is a couple of days.

Computer technology is good. However, there should be even more computer space for students. 10 computers may not be enough.

Program Improvement Plans-Satisfactory

There should be extended library hours and more library resources should be directed at the political science department.

Indicators of Program Productivity

Comprehensive Program Review

Department of Political Science and MPA

Program: BA in Political Science

Quantitative Measures

Measure	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	5-Year Avg
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Number of Declared Majors - Fall Semester

BA Political Science

Full-Time	90	95	77	60	56	76
Part-Time	15	19	23	18	14	18
Total	105	114	100	78	70	93

Number of Degrees Conferred - Fiscal Year

BA Political Science	14	14	29	11	12	16
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Credit Hour Production - Fall Semester

1000 Level Courses	2,055	2,256	2,301	2,328	1,938	2,176
2000 Level Courses	195	219	96	141	216	173
3000 Level Courses	342	354	264	168	255	277
4000 Level Courses	126	117	69	45	45	80
5000 Level Courses						
Total	2,718	2,946	2,730	2,682	2,454	2,706

Average Course Enrollment - Fall Semester

1000 Level Courses	53	58	45	52	40	50
2000 Level Courses	22	18	16	16	18	18
3000 Level Courses	10	10	18	14	12	13
4000 Level Courses	8	10	8	8	4	8
5000 Level Courses						
Overall Average	29	31	35	37	29	32

Number of Faculty

Full-Time Faculty	6	6	6	6	7	6
Part-Time Faculty	1	1	2	1	3	2

Departmental Budget - Fiscal Year

State Funds #DIV/o!

Grant Funds #DIV/o!

Total \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 #DIV/o!

Cost per Major - Fiscal Year

(Total Expenditures/Number of Declared Majors) \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0
\$0

(State Funds/Number of Declared Majors) \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0

Credit Hours Taught Fall and Spring Semesters 5,388 5,898 5,373 5,043 5,199
5,380

Cost per Credit Hour - Total Expenditures \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0

Cost per Credit Hour - State Funds \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0

Percent of Non-Productive Grades

(i.e., W, WF, F, and U)

Lower Division Courses 12.6% 14.7% 11.5% 10.9% 8.4% 11.6%

Upper Division Courses 14.8% 11.3% 7.9% 14.9% 12.9% 12.4%

SAT and GPA Averages - Fall Semester

BA Political Science

Average SAT Reading Score 498 510 519 506 513 509

Average SAT Math Score 480 492 501 478 485 487

Average Undergraduate GPA 2.67 2.72 2.79 2.76 2.82 2.75

Enrollment by Gender - Fall Semester

BA Political Science

Female	43	47	42	33	34	40
Male	62	67	58	45	36	54
Total	105	114	100	78	70	93

Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity - Fall Semester

BA Political Science

American Indian or Alaska Native				1	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	1	2	1	2	2	2			
Black or African American				40	35	36	29	27	33
Hispanic or Latino			6	10	9	6	5	7	
International Student	1		2	1	1	0	1		
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander				0	1	0	0	0	0
Two or More Races			3	2	4	6	6	4	
White	53	62	49	34	30	46			
Race and Ethnicity Unknown				0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	105	114	100	78	70	93			

Enrollment by Age - Fall Semester

BA Political Science

Under 21		49	41	33	27	23	35
21 - 25	33	46	43	28	29	36	

26 - 30	11	14	10	8	10	11	
31 - 40	9	8	10	12	6	9	
41 - 50	1	3	0	2	1	1	
51 - 60	2	2	4	1	0	2	
Over 60		0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	105	114	100	78	70	93	
Average Age		24	24	24	25	24	24

Enrollment in the Program of the Past Five Years

2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

Political Science 105 114 100 78 70 -35 -33.3%

The political science major has seen some market drops since 2012. Some of this may be due to the transitory nature of students and their connection to the military. However, concerted efforts must be made to increase such numbers. This is done by strategic recruitment. The Department has also hired three new faculty members from universities with national reputations.

Degrees Awarded Over Past Five Years

2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 Avg.

Political Science 14 14 29 11 12 16

The political science department averages about 16 graduates per year. It seems 2012 was the peak year and since then has leveled off.

Comparison with CSU & University System of Georgia Program

Columbus State is in the mid range. However, state directives want to see Columbus State University grow so efforts must be made to place the university and the political science department at top

Baccalaureate Degrees Awarded in Political Science Programs at USG State Universities

USG Institution	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	5-Year A
Albany State University	9	18	15	15	16	15
Armstrong Atlantic State University	13	19	17	19	13	16
Georgia Regents University (Augusta)	23	18	33	24	32	25
Clayton College & State University	21	20	14	17	13	17
Columbus State University	14	14	29	11	12	16
Fort Valley State university	5	10	10	12	8	9
Georgia College & State University	33	35	32	30	30	32
Georgia Gwinnett College	0	1	18	15	24	12
Georgia Southwestern State University	7	9	4	6	6	6
Kennesaw State University	80	72	85	73	85	79
University of North Georgia	46	45	42	35	32	40
Savannah State University	11	21	12	21	23	18
Southern Polytechnic State University	0	0	1	2	3	1
State University of West Georgia	38	30	38	27	34	33
Total	300	312	350	307	299	314

RETENTION RATES

Political Science	20	14	70.0%	2010
	14	11	78.6%	2011
	14	9	64.3%	2012
	14	11	78.6%	2013
	11	10	90.9%	2014

The Department of Political Science has a strong retention rate of its students. The cohorts above are first-time full-time undergraduate students enrolled fall semester who entered CSU in the fall or the preceding summer term.

6 year retention rates. The cohorts above are first-time full-time undergraduate students enrolled in a baccalaureate program fall semester who entered CSU in the fall or the preceding summer term. So the first column should read 2006 and the second column should read 2011. The third column reveals the graduation rate after 6 years

26	7	26.9%	2010
28	8	28.6%	2011
23	9	39.1%	2012
12	6	50.0%	2013
20	11	55.0%	2014

Student Learning Indicators

The most discernible student learning indicator is the pre and post test surveys. Students understanding of political was much stronger in the post surveys. The average from faculty conducting the survey was a plus 2 points on a 1-10 scale. Students also undertook capstone or research projects as well as challenging internship which required advanced knowledge of the American Political system.

Graduation Rate of the Program

26	7	26.9%	2010
28	8	28.6%	2011
23	9	39.1%	2012
12	6	50.0%	2013
20	11	55.0%	2014

Program graduation rate hovers around 50% over the past two years. Though actual graduate numbers are down.

Cost Effectiveness of Instructional Delivery

Instructional delivery is cost effective. The main caveat is that the department salaries are well below the national average. As a result, it may be difficult to recruit as well as retain faculty.

Program Viability-Satisfactory

Summary of Program's Viability

-The program is clearly identified. There are healthy robust number of student that want to learn about political science. Three new faculty have been added to the department. However, several improvements must be made.

- Clear publishing guidelines
- Faculty must advance their research interests
- Develop a mentor-mentee program with senior and new faculty
- Clear rules about meritocracy
- Hire more faculty from nationally accredited universities
- These plans need to be in place for the 2016-2017 year

Summary of the Program Improvement Plans

- There needs to be a mentor-mentee program
- Faculty need to advance their own research interests
- There needs to be clear publishing guidelines
- Faculty need to rate off of American government to avoid burnout
- Programs suggestions need to be implemented for the 2016-2017 school year
- The Department must be clear informing faculty about available resources for travel conferences.