

## Program of Study Learning Outcomes Assessment Report

Assessment Cycle	2020-2021
Program of Study	Political Science
Department	History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences
Date of Departmental Approval	September 30, 2021
Name of Submitter	David Beer

Date of data distribution: September 13, 2021

*PLO data from 2020-2021 (and existing data from the two previous academic years) for the program of study was distributed to departmental faculty on the date above*

Date of meeting: September 24, 2021

*The department met on the date above to discuss the data, identify key strengths and challenges, and to formulate action steps for responding to the challenges (i.e., for closing the loop over time).*

The participants in the meeting were: David Beer and Scott Waalkes

Mission Statement: The mission of the political science program is to provide students with an education based on the four sub-fields of the discipline (Political Theory, American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations), to develop students' research and writing skills, and to provide students with the tools to analyze politics and government from a biblical and theological perspective, so that they can develop in intellectual maturity, wisdom, and Christian faith; and so that they can serve the church, community, and world.

Program Goals (these are broad goals rather than specific, measurable learning outcomes)

### **Key Strengths and Challenges in Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)**

#### Key Strength #1

Wording of PLO: Provide an education based on the four sub-fields of the discipline (Political Theory, American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations)

100% of our students since 2018 have met the rubric metric on the senior comprehensive exam for this PLO.

#### Key Strength #2

Wording of PLO: Provide students with the tools to analyze politics and government from a biblical and theological perspective.

92% of students since 2018 have met the rubric standard for this PLO based on their POL 363 final paper.

#### Key Challenge

Wording of PLO: Develop research and writing skills.

In our aggregation of the assessment data from 2018 to the present, this had the lowest percentage of success.

#### **Proposed Action Steps**

We are re-evaluating our POL 460: Senior Seminar and its structure around completion of an independent research project.

#### **Implications for Planning and Budgeting**

No implications at this time, though eventual curricular revisions could change planning and budgeting.

Enter your mapping information in the [Mapping PLOs to MU Educational Goals](#) Google sheet