

**Texas A&M International University  
Annual Institutional Effectiveness Review (AIER)  
of Academic Programs**

**Program: Master of Arts in Political Science**

**Assessment Period Covered: March 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009**

**Program Coordinator (Preparer of Report) Dr. James A Norris**

**List Other Program Faculty:**

<b>Dr. Chris Lawrence</b>

**The Annual Institutional Effectiveness Review for Academic Programs is directed at Goal 1: Academics of the Texas A&M International University 2006-2010 Strategic Plan:**

Develop, maintain, assess, and improve academic programs, administrative/educational support services and student services, to admit, retain, and graduate students who achieve established learning outcomes designed to prepare them for success in their chosen careers.

**Institutional Mission**

Texas A&M International University, a Member of The Texas A&M University System, prepares students for leadership roles in their chosen profession in an increasingly complex, culturally diverse state, national, and global society ... Through instruction, faculty and student research, and public service, Texas A&M International University embodies a strategic point of delivery for well-defined programs and services that improve the quality of life for citizens of the border region, the State of Texas, and national and international communities.

**Academic Program Mission**

The Department of Social Sciences enjoys a broad mission in teaching, research, creative activities, and service to our international community.

The Master of Arts in Political Science is designed to provide a learning environment in which graduate students may develop their own abilities to analyze and think critically about political ideas, events, and policies. The degree intends to prepare students for a wide range of activities such as teaching, scholarship, research, and public service.

**Provide summary of the last cycle's use of results and changes implemented**

There were no results or changes, because we had only one (1) MA student graduate during this period, and his results were 3 (Pass) or satisfactory.

**Selected list of program-level intended student learning outcomes** *It is recommended that programs rotate through their entire set of outcomes over a multi-year period. Programs may focus on one or two outcomes each year, as deemed appropriate.*

1. Students completing the Political Science master's program will demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical and methodological aspects of Political Science so they are able to analyze and critically evaluate political behavior, political institutions, public policies, and the role of government in society at a level commensurate with graduate knowledge.
2. MA students should demonstrate research skills commensurate with their area of specialization.

### Section I: Planning and Implementation

**Outcome(s):** *Identify the outcome(s) that will be focused upon this year.*

Outcome 1. Students completing the Political Science master's program will demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical and methodological aspects of Political Science so they are able to analyze and critically evaluate political behavior, political institutions, public policies, and the role of government in society at a level commensurate with graduate knowledge.

**Please indicate if the outcome(s) is (are) related to writing (Write-On TAMIU!).**

**Methods of assessment to be used:**

OUTCOME 1: Graduating Political Science master's candidates will take a locally-developed comprehensive examination that measures their ability to analyze and critically evaluate political behavior, political institutions, public policies, and the role of government in society. The examination will be team-graded by Political Science faculty using a rubric with the following evaluative categories: 4=Distinguished Pass; 3=Pass; 2=Marginal Pass; 1=Fail

**Indicate when assessment(s) will take place:**

Spring Semester 2009

**Criteria/Benchmark(s):** Specify if deemed appropriate to assess outcome(s). Criteria/benchmark(s) may be optional, especially if qualitative measures are used for data collection.

OUTCOME 1: The average score on the examination will not fall below 3 (Pass).

## Section II: Analysis of Results

### **What were the results attained?**

Only one student graduated from the degree program and that student met the standard set by the faculty, passing the written comprehensive exam with a score of three (3).

### **What were the conclusions reached?**

This result was as expected and hoped so no changes were made.

### **Describe the action plan formulated. (The plan may be multi-year in nature.)**

None required.

## Section III: Resources

### **Resource(s) to implement action plan:**

Does not apply.

#### Funding

- New Resources Required
- Reallocation of current funds
- Current funding resources are sufficient.

#### Physical

- New or reallocated space

#### Other

- Primarily faculty/staff time
- University/rule procedure change only

### **Provide a narrative description and justification for requested resources (include linkage to Strategic Plan)**

Not applicable.

### **Identify proposed outcomes for the next assessment cycle:**

*Continuation of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for continuation):*

This is a perennial area for concern that requires continuous vigilance.

*New Outcome(s) – (List outcomes below):*

N/A

*Modification of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for modification):*

N/A