

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

Program: Master of Arts in Political Science

Assessment Period Covered: January 1, 2009 to January 31, 2010

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

List Other Program Faculty:

Dr Chris Lawrence
Mark Menaldo

Reviewed by Chair: Name _____ Date _____

Reviewed by Dean: Name _____ Date _____

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

Only two students graduated from the degree program and both students met the standard set by the faculty, passing the written comprehensive exam with a score of three (3). Hence, no changes were made.

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.

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 (QEP).

Methods of assessment to be used: *The explanation should identify and describe the type of assessment(s) that will be used (e.g., survey, questionnaire, observation instrument, test, rubric to evaluate performance, standardized examination, action research, interviews, etc.), who will provide the information, and how the data will be obtained.*

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 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?

Describe the primary results or findings from your analysis of the information collected. This section should include an explanation of any strength(s) or weakness(es) of the program suggested by the results.

Only one student graduate from the degree program and he met the standard set by the faculty, passing the written comprehensive exam with a score of three (3) or better. This student scored a three (3).

What were the conclusions reached?

Should include a brief description of the procedure used for reaching the conclusion(s) based on the evidence collected and describe the process used to disseminate the information to other individuals. For example, if the discussion took place during the annual spring retreat, include a summary from those deliberations using the Meeting Minutes template found on the Project Integrate web page at <http://www.tamui.edu/integrate/docs/Minutes-Template.doc>. Once completed, submit the minutes to assessment@tamui.edu.

Long-term trends are satisfactory. No other conclusions are possible.

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

Based on the conclusion(s), describe the action plan to be implemented to improve or maintain student learning, including a timeline for implementation.

Not applicable.

Section III: Resources

Resource(s) to implement action plan:

Describe the resources that will be needed to implement the action plan. Also indicate if the resources are currently available, or if additional funds will be needed to obtain these resources.

Funding

- New Resources Required
- Reallocation of current funds

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)

N/A

Identify proposed outcomes for the next assessment cycle:

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

These are perennial issues for the discipline.

Outcome(s) – (List outcomes below):

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.

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

N/A

Date Completed: 11 Feb 2010

Submit completed form to integrate@tamiu.edu.

Updated 09/03/2009