

ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR

Master of Arts in Political Science (MA) (Thesis and Non-Thesis)
Instructional Degree Program

Spring 2003
Assessment Period Covered

July 1, 2003
Date Submitted

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose Linkage:

Institutional Mission Reference:

Texas A&M International University, a Member of The Texas A&M University System, is committed to the preparation of students for leadership roles in their chosen profession and in increasingly complex, culturally diverse state, national, and global society ... Through instruction, faculty and student research, and public service, Texas A&M International University is 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.

College/University Goal(s) Supported:

Graduates of masters' level will have developed a depth and breadth of understanding in their chosen field commensurate with graduate level knowledge.

Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes:

1. Students completing the Political Science master's program will have an understanding of the theoretical and methodological aspects of Political Science so that 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. Graduates of the Political Science program will be prepared for further graduate study.

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Intended Educational (Student) Outcome:

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1. Students completing the Political Science master's program will have an understanding of the theoretical and methodological aspects of Political Science so that 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.

First Means of Assessment for Outcome Identified Above:

1a. Means of Program Assessment & Criteria for Success:

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: 1 = Distinguished Pass; 2 = Pass; 3 = Conditional Pass; 4 = Fail. The average score on the examination will not fall below 3.

1a. Summary of Assessment Data Collected:

Only one master's candidate took the examination. This resulted in 100% pass (3) for Spring 2003.

1a. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program:

The number of graduates (1) is too small to use as a basis of programmatic changes. Data will be collected from future graduates until enough data has been gathered to use as a basis of decision-making. Subscales will be developed for future examinations to more closely identify problem areas.

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome Identified Above:

1b. Means of Program Assessment & Criteria for Success:

Students will be surveyed to gather supporting data regarding whether they believe the program provided them with the ability to analyze and critically evaluate political issues. The responses will be measured on a Likert scale ranging from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very well). It is not expected that the average of the responses will fall below 4.

1b. Summary of Assessment Data Collected:

100% of the graduates said the program provided them with the ability to analyze and critically evaluate political issues.

1b. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program:

The number of responses is too low to use as a basis of conclusions about the program. Data will be collected from future graduates until a sufficient number of responses is obtained.

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2. Graduates of the Political Science program will be prepared for further graduate study.

First Means of Assessment for Outcome Identified Above:

2a. Means of Program Assessment & Criteria for Success:

Acceptance rates for Ph.D. and other programs will be gathered. At least 50% of students who have completed the Master of Political Science degree at TAMIU and who apply for such programs will be accepted.

2a. Summary of Assessment Data Collected:

No data available as yet.

2a. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program:

Enter text here

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome Identified Above:

2b. Means of Program Assessment & Criteria for Success:

Students who have completed the TAMIU Master of Political Science degree and who enter other graduate programs will be surveyed one year into the program to gather supporting data concerning how well the master's program prepared them for higher graduate study. The responses will be measured on a Likert scale ranging from 1 (very poor) to 5 (very well). The average of responses will not fall below 3 on the scale.

2b. Summary of Assessment Data Collected:

No data as yet.

2b. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program:

Enter text here

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

SOURCE	LOCATION/Special Instructions
Comprehensive Examination	
rubric (need proper name)	
survey (need proper name)	