

ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR

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

Spring 2004
Assessment Period Covered

July 1, 2004
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 an 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:

A principal focus of A&M International University's program is to prepare students for leadership roles in their chosen profession and to provide undergraduate education in the liberal arts and sciences.

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 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.** Students completing the baccalaureate program will compare favorably in their knowledge of political science with students at other universities completing similar programs.
- 3.** Students completing the Political Science baccalaureate program will be prepared to enter post-baccalaureate programs

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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 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:

No students were candidates for the master's degree this semester.

1a. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program:

Because there were no graduates in this program during the assessment period, the program faculty cannot make recommendations for program changes at this time.

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). The average of the responses will not fall below 4.

_____b. Summary of Assessment Data Collected:

No students graduated from the Master's program during the Spring 2004 semester.

_____b. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program:

Because there were no graduates in this program during the assessment period, the program faculty cannot make recommendations for program changes at this time..

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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 at this time. We have no record of students applying to Ph.D. programs at this time.

2a. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program:

Because there were no known graduates applying for Ph.D program during the assessment period, the program faculty cannot make recommendations for program changes at this time.

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 poorly) 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 we have no students who have entered other graduate programs.

2b. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program:

The program faculty cannot make recommendations for program changes at this time because surveys were not mailed to previous year's graduates. A system will be put into place during Fall 2004 for arranging collection of the data.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

SOURCE	LOCATION/Special Instructions