

# ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science  
**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 program will understand political behavior, political institutions, public policies, and the role of government in society.
- 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:**

***NOTE: There should be one form for each intended outcome listed. The intended outcome should be restated in the box immediately below and the intended outcome number entered in the blank spaces.***

1. Students completing the Political Science program will understand political behavior, political institutions, public policies, and the role of government in society.

## **First Means of Assessment for Outcome Identified Above:**

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

Senior Political Science students will be required to take a capstone course that reviews political behavior, political institutions, public policies, and the role of government in society. The final examination, a locally generated exam, focusing on these components, will be given to students at the end of the semester. It will be team graded by political science faculty using a rubric ranging from 1 (poor) to 4 (excellent). The average score on the examination will be at least 3.

### **1a. Summary of Assessment Data Collected:**

This course was developed for assessment purposes for the catalog year 2002-2003. The senior capstone course will not begin until Spring 2005 due to catalog--major requirement limitations.

### **1a. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program:**

Not applicable at this time. Examination will be developed during the Spring 2005 semester.

## **Second Means of Assessment for Outcome Identified Above:**

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

The examination in the capstone class will have subscales: political behavior; political institutions; public policies; role of government in society. These will be graded by a team of Political Science faculty using a rubric ranging from 1 (poor) to 4 (excellent). On each subscale, the average score will not fall below 3 and no individual student will score below 2 on any subscale.

**\_\_\_\_\_b. Summary of Assessment Data Collected:**

No data. This course was developed for assessment purposes for the catalog year 2002-2003. The senior capstone course will not begin until Spring 2005 due to catalog--major requirement limitations.

**\_\_\_\_\_b. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program:**

The program faculty did not feel that action was warranted at this time. This examination will be developed during the Spring 2005 semester.

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## **Intended Educational (Student) Outcome:**

2. Students completing the baccalaureate program will compare favorably in their knowledge of political science with students at other universities completing similar programs.

## **First Means of Assessment for Outcome Identified Above:**

**2a. Means of Program Assessment & Criteria for Success:** Graduating seniors will take the ACAT examination in political science. The average score of TAMIU graduates will not fall below the average scores of other students completing similar programs nation.

### **2a. Summary of Assessment Data Collected:**

Four of five graduating seniors took the ACAT examination in political science. The fifth student had taken the exam in the Fall semester anticipating graduation, but did not actually graduate until the Spring Semester. As a whole students performed at the 76<sup>th</sup> percentile, exceeding our goal. Scores varied from a high of 597 (97 points above average) to a low of 530 (30 points above average).

### **2a. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program:**

We will continue to monitor these developments.

## **Second Means of Assessment for Outcome Identified Above:**

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

Subscales on the ACAT will be analyzed to identify specific areas of the program that need attention. On no subscale will the average score fall below the average of other students completing similar programs nationwide.

### **2b. Summary of Assessment Data Collected:**

Averages on subscales were not given due to the small number of students taking the examination. Individual results are as follows:

American Studies (U.S. Government)

596 (96 points above average) to 410 (90 points below average);

mean score = 483 (17 points below average)

International politics/Comparative Government

660 (160 points above average) to 563 (63 points above average);

mean score = 606 (106 above average)

Public Administration

628 (128 points above average) to 567 (67 points above);

mean score = 610 (110 above average)

Normative and Empirical Theory

692 (192 points above average) to 397 (103 points below average)

mean score = 522 (22 points above average)

**2b. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program:**

The number of students taking the test remains too small to use as a basis of programmatic changes. These data will be compiled with future exam scores to identify trends. The Political Science faculty will consider the indicators from this exam as a guide to careful monitoring of program offerings. Nevertheless, it should be noted that we have already taken steps that should improve the political science instructional program. New majors since the 2002-2003 academic year are required to take foundation courses in all the instructional areas.

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## **Intended Educational (Student) Outcome:**

3. Students completing the Political Science baccalaureate program will be prepared to enter post-baccalaureate programs.

## **First Means of Assessment for Outcome Identified Above:**

### **3a. Means of Program Assessment & Criteria for Success:**

Acceptance rates in post-baccalaureate programs will be gathered. Seventy-five percent of Political Science graduates who pursue a post-baccalaureate program will be accepted.

### **3a. Summary of Assessment Data Collected:**

No record of members of this class applying for graduate study was found. This will be reviewed in the next two months when any such record should be available. None of the members of this class has applied for graduate study.

### **3a. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program:**

No action indicated.

## **Second Means of Assessment for Outcome Identified Above:**

### **3b. Means of Program Assessment & Criteria for Success:**

The number of students completing the baccalaureate program who successfully complete graduate programs will be gathered. At least 50% of those entering post-baccalaureate programs will successfully complete those programs.

### **3b. Summary of Assessment Data Collected:**

No data are available at this time. If any of the students of this class does attend graduate studies in the future these data will be collected at that time. At the earliest, this would be over a year from now.

### **3b. Use of Results to Improve Instructional Program:**

The program faculty did not feel that action was warranted at this time.

**SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION**

<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>LOCATION/Special Instructions</b>