

## Annual Report on Program Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

Program: BA in Political Science

Program Contact and Title: Graham Wilson, Chair, Department of Political Science

College/School Contact and Title: Susan Jackson, Associate Dean

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1. List the learning outcomes for the program

*Students graduating with a major in Political Science should be able to:*

1. Demonstrate substantive understanding of governmental and political processes in a global context, including mastery of key concepts (theories of state and government, the workings of political institutions, the foundations of mass political behavior, political economy, interstate relations and conflicts, the workings of public policy, and the assessment of policy outcomes)
2. Conduct political analysis using a range of qualitative and quantitative tools
3. Reason analytically to evaluate causal claims in political science
4. Demonstrate a capacity, in both oral and written communication, to present arguments cogently and ground them in empirical evidence

2. Where are these outcomes published? (All outcomes will be published on the University assessment website [url TBA]; if you publish your outcomes on your website, which is recommended, please provide the url)

1. University assessment website [url TBA].
2. Department of Political Science website:  
<http://www.bu.edu/polisci/academics/undergrad/>

3. How do you determine whether learning outcomes have been achieved?

To be completed by April 2014

- a. What evidence do/will you gather? (e.g., sample of final papers in a capstone course; portfolio; licensure exams; comprehensive exams for graduate students; capstone defense evaluation)
  - i. What evidence do you currently have available to begin assessment, or what do you currently use? (Usually, grades are inadequate for gaining specific information on *program* outcomes.)

- ii. What tools might you like to implement and/or what materials would you like to gather in the future to improve program assessment?
  - b. Who interprets the evidence? (e.g., annually by the curriculum committee; biannually by a jury of faculty)
4. Program Learning Outcomes Assessment can be useful for strategic planning and for a variety of program reviews. Please list the dates of the most recent program reviews and indicate other venues in which you've discussed program learning outcomes:
5. Have you made curricular changes as a result of the information gleaned? If so, what?
6. All programs must have assessed all outcomes and acted upon their assessments by May 2017. Please project a schedule, by year, for an annual cycle of assessment for your program.

**Example** of #1 and #3 above from new Middle East and North African Studies BA

#### **Learning Objectives and Evaluation**

Students graduating with a major in MENA Studies are expected to:

1. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of Middle Eastern history, politics, religions, arts, and regional and some local cultural issues.
2. Demonstrate proficiency (ACTFL intermediate-high) in reading, writing, speaking, and orally comprehending at least one MENA language, or basic proficiency (ACTFL intermediate-low) in two MENA languages.
3. Demonstrate cultural competence sufficient to function in the MENA region, either through coursework or (preferably) through study abroad in the region.

**Evaluation:** Students will begin keeping a MENA Studies portfolio while enrolled in CAS ME 101. Each student's portfolio will collect and reflect on important classwork in courses for the major as well as track language learning milestones (mock-OPI oral proficiency scores, study-abroad fellowships won, etc.). While primarily designed for the student's current learning and later use (e.g., for a graduate school or job application), the portfolios will also be saved. Analyzed in the aggregate, they will help the MENA Studies Program Faculty to evaluate and track students' fulfillment of the content objectives across the whole program, and to fine-tune the major as necessary.