

**Major Field Assessment Plan  
B.A. Political Science**

The Strategic Mission of Southeastern Louisiana University is to lead the educational, economic, and cultural development of southeast Louisiana.

The major objectives of the B.A. in Political Science are to provide students with general humanistic knowledge in the fields of History, Political Science, and Philosophy; to aid them through this knowledge to analyze and interpret problems and achievements of past and present societies; to further their intellectual development through opportunities to think, to speak, and to write logically and analytically; to prepare them to become dynamic citizens who understand the structure, powers, and procedures of national and state governments and have some knowledge of other world governments as well; and to provide specific background training for such professions as law, journalism, government service, and teaching.

**Goal 1**

Political Science majors will have a broad knowledge of American and World Politics.

A. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will have knowledge of American Federal, state, and local Politics; Southern politics; Louisiana politics; the Constitution, law, and criminal justice; the presidency, legislative process, and political parties; research methods, polling, and public opinion; public administration and policy; and political theory.

Assessment

Political Science majors will earn at least a C average in their major courses (36 hours), which include the following required courses:

- a. 6 hours Federal, State, and Local Politics Survey  
Political Science 201, 202
- b. 3 hours Research Methods and Statistics  
Political Science 300
- c. 3-12 hours Constitution, Law, Presidency, Southern Politics  
Political Science 401, 403, 407, 432, 434 and/or 480
- d. 0-6 hours Courts, Criminal Justice  
Political Science 406, 407
- e. 3-12 hours Comparative Politics and International Relations  
Political Science 420, 422, 424, 425, 426, 428, and/or 480
- f. 3-12 hours Legislative Process, Public Administration, Public Policy

Political Science 436, 460, 462, and/or 480

- g. 3-12 hours Political Parties, Louisiana, Polling, Foreign Policy, Environment  
Political Science 437, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, and/or 480
- h. 3-12 hours Political Theory  
Political Science 450, 451, 452, and/or 480
- i. 0-6 hours Internship  
Political Science 470
- j. 0-3 hours International Political Simulations  
Political Science 475
- k. 3 hours Capstone Course (Seminar for Political Science Majors)  
Political Science 490

B. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will have the basic knowledge of History and Philosophy necessary to understand the historical and intellectual foundations of Political Science.

Assessment

Political Science majors will earn a passing grade in the following required courses:

- a. 6 hours Western Civilization Survey  
History 101, 102
- b. 6 hours American History Survey  
History 201, 202
- c. 3 hours Modern American History—Upper Level  
History 479, 480, or 482
- d. 3 hours Introduction to Philosophy / Great Philosophers / Ethics  
Philosophy 301, 302, or 313

Political Science majors may elect to pursue a minor (18 hours) in History or Philosophy.

C. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will express satisfaction with the quality of instruction and the overall learning environment provided by the Department of History and Political Science.

Assessment

Southeastern Louisiana University Exit Survey

Effective: March 26, 2003

**Goal 2**

Political Science majors will have the necessary skills to engage in scholarly research and critical analysis of primary and secondary sources.

A. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will be able to utilize the library resources (both print and electronic) necessary to conduct research in Political Science.

Assessment

At least 80% of Political Science majors will earn a B or better in Library Science 102.

B. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will have a basic knowledge of social science research methods and statistics, including the use of computers.

Assessment

All Political Science majors will complete Political Science 300.

C. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will be able to carefully read and critically analyze both primary and secondary sources and to discuss these intelligently both orally and in writing.

Assessment

All 100 and 200-level History and Political Science courses require the use of department-approved texts (which include examples of primary documents) and readers (which include diverse historiographical perspectives). All 300 and 400-level History, Political Science, and Philosophy courses require advanced texts and additional mandatory readings, on which students must be tested; essay exams; term papers, critical book reviews, and/or document analyses; and book discussions and/or presentations by students. Political Science 490, a required capstone course for all Political Science majors, is an Undergraduate Seminar in Political Science which is conducted like a graduate-level seminar and requires students to read extensively, write multiple critical papers, make multiple oral presentations, and participate in vigorous seminar discussions.

D. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will acquire thorough knowledge and skill in professional writing and documentation according to the guidelines in the American Political Science Association's *Style Manual for Political Science* and in the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

Assessment

All written work for 300 and 400-level History, Political Science, and Philosophy courses must meet the minimum standards of good professional writing and—where necessary—utilize proper documentation.

**Goal 3**

Political Science majors will be prepared for entrance to graduate school and/or a variety of professions and vocations.

A. Expected Outcome

At least 50% of Political Science majors will be accepted to graduate school (including law school) or will be employed in a profession that utilizes the knowledge and skills acquired in the B.A. in Political Science program within six months after graduation.

Assessment

Southeastern Louisiana University Survey of Undergraduate Degree Alumni.

**Goal 4**

Political Science majors will possess global awareness and a multicultural perspective

A. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will acquire knowledge of world history, cultures, economies, geography, governments, and peoples.

Assessment

Political Science majors will complete the following courses:

- a. 6 hours Western Civilization

- b. 12 hours English (including British and/or World Literature)
  - c. 3 hours Philosophy
  - d. 3-12 hours Comparative Politics and International Relations
  - e. 0-3 hours International Political Simulations
  - f. 6 hours Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Psychology, or Sociology
- Political Science majors may elect to pursue a minor (18 hours) in International Relations.

B. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will acquire knowledge of a foreign language.

Assessment

Political Science majors will complete 12 hours of a single foreign language.

C. Expected Outcome

Political Science majors will have more opportunity to acquire knowledge of other countries through study abroad.

Assessment

Political Science majors will increase their participation in the Study Abroad Program because of increased encouragement from faculty and more thorough dissemination of information about benefits, scholarships, and other inducements.