MAJOR FIELD ASSESSMENT REPORT
B.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
2002-2003

PROGRAM CHANGE

In 1999-2000 the Department of History and Political Science replaced the old Bachelor of Arts in Government curriculum with a new Bachelor of Arts in Political Science curriculum that more accurately reflects the current state of the academic discipline of Political Science. Majors in the old Government program had the option of remaining in that program or moving up to the new Political Science program.

Some results reported here are for graduates of the old B.A. in Government program, and some are for graduates of the new B.A. Political Science program. Most graduates in 1999-2000 were in the old program, there was considerable overlapping of the two programs in 2000-2001, and most graduates in 2001-2002 were in the new program.

For more detailed information on the curriculum changes, see below under "Application of Assessment Information."

MISSION

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.

SCOPE

This report provides assessment information concerning all Goals and Expected Outcomes in the Major Field Assessment Plan for the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science Program for the academic years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, and 2001-2002. Where information is currently available, it also reports for the academic year 2002-2003 (information for some goals and expected outcomes will not be available until the completion of the academic year).

In 2003 the Department of History and Political Science adopted a new, more detailed Major Field Assessment Plan for the B.A. in Political Science, replacing the previous plan for the old B.A. in Government, which took effect in 1996. The new plan, though articulated in the present format in 2003, reflects established practice in the Department of History and Political Science. Thus, information in this report—which is compiled annually—is presented in the new, more detailed format.

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

All students completing the B.A. in Political Science program have earned 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

All students completing the B.A. in Political Science program have earned 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, Philosophy, or International Relations.

Minors Earned

	History	Philosophy	Int'l Studies	Other Minors
1999-2000	1	0	0	0
2000-2001	4	0	0	1
2001-2002	4	0	0	1
2002-2003	3	0	1	0

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

The survey reports results for 1999-2000 for only the old B.A. in Government curriculum because there were not yet any graduates in the new B.A. in Political Science curriculum. It reports results for 2000-2001 for both the old and new curricula. It reports results for 2001-2002 for only the new curriculum because there were no more graduates in the old curriculum.

1=very dissatisfied, 5=very satisfied

		1	2	3	4	5
Clarity of the degree requirements						
1999-2000	Government	00.0	00.0	36.4	27.3	36.4
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	33.3	16.7	50.0
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	15.4	23.1	30.8	30.8
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	00.0	11.1	44.4	44.4
Opportunities interact w/faculty outside class						
1999-2000	Government	00.0	00.0	18.2	27.3	54.5
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	16.7	00.0	83.3
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	07.7	07.7	23.1	61.5
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	11.1	00.0	33.3	55.6
Effectiveness of faculty as teachers						
1999-2000	Government	00.0	00.0	09.1	36.4	54.5
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	00.0	50.0	50.0
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	00.0	23.1	46.2	30.8
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	00.0	0.0	22.2	77.8
Friendliness and helpfulness of office staff						
1999-2000	Government	00.0	00.0	27.3	18.2	54.5
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	16.7	16.7	66.7
2000-2001	Political Science	07.7	07.7	15.4	30.8	38.5
2001-2002	Political Science	11.1	00.0	11.1	44.4	33.3

Faculty interest in academic development

1999-2000	Government	00.0	00.0	00.0	54.5	45.5
2000-2001	Government	00.0	16.7	00.0	33.3	50.0
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	07.7	23.1	23.1	46.2
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	00.0	22.2	33.3	44.4

Effectiveness of beginning courses

1999-2000	Government	00.0	09.1	18.2	36.4	36.4
2000-2001	Government	00.0	16.7	00.0	33.3	50.0
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	00.0	07.7	69.2	23.1
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	11.1	11.1	55.6	22.2

Quality of instruction in advanced courses

1999-2000	Government	00.0	00.0	00.0	27.3	72.7
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	00.0	50.0	50.0
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	07.7	00.0	38.5	53.8
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	00.0	11.1	11.1	77.8

Professional activities, associations, clubs

1999-2000	Government	09.1	27.3	27.3	27.3	09.1
2000-2001	Government	00.0	16.7	33.3	16.7	33.3
2000-2001	Political Science	07.7	15.4	23.1	07.7	46.2
2001-2002	Political Science	11.1	11.1	33.3	33.3	11.1

Hands-on experiences outside classroom

1999-2000	Government	09.1	18.2	36.4	27.3	09.1
2000-2001	Government	00.0	16.7	00.0	66.7	16.7
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	15.4	30.8	23.1	30.8
2001-2002	Political Science	11.1	22.2	33.3	11.1	22.2

Interaction w/faculty research/scholarship

1999-2000	Government	18.2	00.0	09.1	54.5	18.2
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	33.3	50.0	16.7
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	07.7	46.2	23.1	23.1
2001-2002	Political Science	11.1	00.0	33.3	33.3	22.2

Availability of required courses

1999-2000	Government	09.1	18.2	09.1	45.5	18.2
2000-2001	Government	00.0	16.7	33.3	16.7	33.3
2000-2001	Political Science	07.7	00.0	30.8	46.2	15.4
2001-2002	Political Science	33.3	00.0	22.2	22.2	22.2

Availability of elective courses

1999-2000	Government	09.1	18.2	09.1	27.3	36.4
2000-2001	Government	00.0	16.7	16.7	50.0	16.7
2000-2001	Political Science	07.7	00.0	38.5	38.5	15.4
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	11.1	22.2	33.3	33.3

Quality of instruction on standards/ethics

1999-2000	Government	00.0	00.0	09.1	36.4	54.5
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	33.3	00.0	66.7
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	00.0	00.0	53.8	46.2
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	00.0	11.1	44.4	44.4

Friendliness and helpfulness of faculty

1999-2000	Government	00.0	00.0	18.2	18.2	63.6
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	00.0	16.7	83.3
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	00.0	00.0	23.1	76.9
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	00.0	11.1	22.2	66.7

Opportunities to collaborate w/other students

1999-2000	Government	00.0	00.0	45.5	27.3	27.3
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	16.7	33.3	50.0
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	00.0	30.8	30.8	38.5
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	00.0	11.1	44.4	44.4

Computer resources for courses in major

1999-2000	Government	09.1	09.1	45.5	18.2	18.2
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	16.7	66.7	16.7
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	07.7	23.1	38.5	30.8
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	11.1	33.3	22.2	33.3

Library resources related to your major

1999-2000	Government	18.2	18.2	18.2	36.4	09.1
2000-2001	Government	00.0	16.7	33.3.	16.7	33.3
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	07.7	38.5	30.8	23.1
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	11.1	33.3	33.3	22.2

Use of appropriate technology in classroom

1999-2000	Government	09.1	09.1	27.3	45.5	09.1
2000-2001	Government	00.0	16.7	00.0	83.3	00.0
2000-2001	Political Science	07.7	00.0	38.5	38.5	15.4
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	11.1	11.1	55.6	22.2

Facilities and equipment related to major

1999-2000	Government	09.1	00.0	27.3	36.4	27.3
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	50.0	50.0	00.0
2000-2001	Political Science	07.7	00.0	30.8	38.5	23.1
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	11.1	22.2	44.4	22.2

Help from faculty re further education

1999-2000	Government	00.0	00.0	18.2	18.2	63.6
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	16.7	33.3	50.0
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	07.7	15.4	30.8	46.2
2001-2002	Political Science	11.1	00.0	33.3	11.1	44.4

Size of classes in major

1999-2000	Government	00.0	00.0	09.1	09.1	81.8
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	00.0	33.3	66.7
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	00.0	07.7	15.4	76.9
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	00.0	00.0	22.2	77.8

Help from faculty re employment

1999-2000	Government	00.0	18.2	45.5	09.1	27.3
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	33.3	33.3	33.3
2000-2001	Political Science	07.7	15.4	38.5	23.1	15.4
2001-2002	Political Science	11.1	22.2	33.3	33.3	33.3

Overall quality of department

1999-2000	Government	00.0	00.0	00.0	36.4	63.6
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	16.7	33.3	50.0
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	00.0	07.7	61.5	30.8
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	00.0	11.1	44.4	44.4

Overall quality of degree program

1999-2000	Government	00.0	00.0	9.1	45.5	45.5
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	16.7	16.7	66.7
2000-2001	Political Science	00.0	00.0	15.4	46.2	38.5
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	00.0	11.1	55.6	33.3

Usefulness of academic advice from advisor

1999-2000	Government	00.0	27.3	27.3	27.3	18.2
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	16.7	66.7	16.7
2000-2001	Political Science	23.1	23.1	15.4	15.4	23.1
2001-2002	Political Science	22.2	11.1	11.1	33.3	22.2

Advisor's knowledge of requirements

1999-2000	Government	00.0	27.3	18.2	18.2	36.4
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	00.0	50.0	50.0
2000-2001	Political Science	15.4	30.8	07.7	30.8	15.4

2001-2002	Political Science	11.1	00.0	33.3	33.3	22.2

Accessibility of advisor

1999-2000	Government	00.0	18.2	27.3	27.3	27.3
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	33.3	16.7	50.0
2000-2001	Political Science	07.7	23.1	30.8	07.7	30.8
2001-2002	Political Science	11.1	11.1	00.0	33.3	44.4

Advisor's concern w/academic goals

1999-2000	Government	09.1	09.1	09.1	45.5	27.3
2000-2001	Government	00.0	00.0	00.0	50.0	50.0
2000-2001	Political Science	23.1	15.4	23.1	15.4	23.1
2001-2002	Political Science	22.2	11.1	00.0	44.4	22.2

Global perspective of courses

1999-2000	Government	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2000-2001	Government	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2000-2001	Political Science	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	11.1	22.2	22.2	44.4

Relevancy of courses

1999-2000	Government		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2000-2001	Government		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2000-2001	Political Science		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2001-2002	Political Science	00.0	00.0	44.4	11.1	44.4	

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 75% of Political Science majors will earn a B or better in Library Science 102.

Grades Earned in Library Science 102 by Graduating Political Science Majors

	A	B	C	D	F	T*	N/A	% B or better
1999-2000	11	02	00	00	00	00	00	100%
2000-2001	14	05	00	00	00	00	00	100%
2001-2002	10	02	03	00	00	00	00	80%
2002-2003	10	04	01	00	00	00	00	93%

*T=enrolled spring 2003.

B. Expected Outcome

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

Assessment

At least 75% of Political Science majors will earn a C or better in Political Science 300.

Grades Earned in Political Science 300 by Graduating Political Science Majors

		A	B	C	D	F	T*	N/A	% C or better
1999-2000	01	00	00	00	00	00	12	100%	
2000-2001	06	02	00	01	00	00	10	100%	
2001-2002	04	05	03	00	00	00	03	100%	
2002-2003	04	08	02	00	00	00	01	100%	

*T=enrolled spring 2003. N/A=demonstrated computer literacy in another course before Political Science 300 was implemented.

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. Political Science majors will earn at least a C average in their major courses, and at least 75% of Political Science majors will earn a C or better in Political Science 490, the capstone course.

Grades Earned in Political Science 490 by Graduating Political Science Majors

		A	B	C	D	F	T*	N/A*	% C or better
1999-2000	02	00	01	00	00	00	09	100%	
2000-2001	07	03	02	00	00	00	07	100%	
2001-2002	05	03	02	01	00	00	03	91%	
2002-2003	05	07	00	00	00	02	01	100%	

*T=enrolled spring 2003. N/A=students in the old Government major were not required to take Political Science 490.

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 Exit Survey

Note that the Exit Survey measures the numbers accepted to graduate school or employed at the time of the exit survey, which is completed *before* graduation, rather than the number within six months *after* graduation

What are your employment plans immediately following graduation?

1=already have a full-time job
2=looking for a full-time job
3-already have a temporary job
4=looking for a temporary job
5= do not plan to work

	%	1	2	3	4	5
1999-2000 Government	27.3	45.5	00.0	09.1	18.2	
2000-2001 Government	00.0	50.0	00.0	16.7	33.3	
2000-2001 Political Science	07.7	53.8	00.0	15.4	23.1	
2001-2002 Political Science	22.2	55.6	00.0	00.0	22.2	

Question 31: What are your plans for further education following graduation?

1=do not plan to obtain further education
2=have been accepted into a graduate program
3-plan to go to grad school immediately following graduation but not yet accepted
4=plan to go to grad school at some point but not right now
5=will obtain further education but not a graduate level

	%	1	2	3	4	5
1999-2000 Government	27.3	00.0	18.2	54.5	00.0	
2000-2001 Government	16.7	00.0	50.0	33.3	00.0	
2000-2001 Political Science	00.0	15.4	07.7	46.2	30.8	

| 2001-2002 Political science | 11.1 | 00.0 | 33.3 | 55.6 | 00.0 |

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

All students completing the B.A. in Political Science program have earned a passing grade in 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 (see above, Goal 1, B, "Minors Earned").

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.

Foreign Language Credit Earned

	French	German	Italian	Latin	Spanish	N/A*
1999-2000	05	01	00	00	04	02
2000-2001	04	01	00	02	08	04
2001-2002	01	00	00	00	12	02
2002-2003	06	01	00	01	07	00

*Prior to 1995-96 Government majors had the option of taking 12 hours of Computer Science instead of 12 hours of 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. A provisional goal is that by the 2005-2006 academic year, at least 10% of Political Science majors will participate in Study Abroad or in the International Political Simulations class (Political Science 475). The continued viability of this goal will be subject to both economic and international conditions that may affect the feasibility of student travel abroad.

APPLICATION OF ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

In 1995 the B.A. in Political Science earned SACS reaccreditation.

In 1999-2000 the Department of History and Political Science replaced the old Bachelor of Arts in Government curriculum with a new Bachelor of Arts in Political Science curriculum that more accurately reflects the current state of the academic discipline of Political Science. All 200-level courses were given standard course descriptions and increased reading requirements. Some 300-level (junior-level) and 400-level (senior-level) courses were upgraded to 400/500-level courses (senior/graduate-level) courses. Several new courses were introduced. All upper-level courses were renumbered in a more logical sequence.

Old Course		New Course(s)	
Govt 201	American Federal Govt	Poli 201	American Politics
Govt 202	State and Local Govt	Poli 202	State and Local Politic
-----		Poli 300	Research Methods/Statistics
Govt 372	Introduction to Public Law	Poli 401/405	Introduction to Public Law
Govt 421/521	Constitutional Law	Poli 403/503	Constitutional Law
Govt 405/505	Crim Justice and Constitution	Poli 405/505	Crim Justice and Constitution
Govt 406/506	Admn American Court System	Poli 406/506	Admn American Court System
Govt 422/522	Civil Rights and Constitution	Poli 407/507	Civil Rights and Constitution
Govt 311	International Relations	Poli 420/520	International Relations
Govt 317	Int'l Organizations and U.N.	Poli 422/522	International Organizations
-----		Poli 424/524	Int'l Political Economy
Govt 431/531	Comparative European Politics	Poli 425/525	Comparative European Politics
Govt 432/532	Comparative Foreign Politics	Poli 426/526	Comp Pol Developing Nations
-----		Poli 428/528	Middle East Politics
-----		Poli 432/532	Southern Politics
-----		Poli 434/534	American Presidency
Govt 371	Legislative Process	Poli 436/536	Legislative Process
Govt 301	American Political Parties	Poli 438/538	Political Parties
-----		Poli 440/540	Louisiana Politics
-----		Poli 442/542	Polling and Public Opinion
Govt 362	Recent American Diplomacy	Poli 444/544	American Foreign Policy
-----		Poli 446/546	Politics and the Environment
Govt 441/541	Development of Pol Theory	Poli 450/550	Ancient/Medieval Pol Theory
Govt 442/542	Modern/Contemporary Pol Th	Poli 451/551	Modern/Contemporary Pol Th
Govt 452/552	American Political Theory	Poli 452/552	American Political Theory
Govt 312	Public Administration	Poli 460/560	Public Administration
-----		Poli 462/562	Special Topics in Public Admn
-----		Poli 470	Internship in Political Science
-----		Poli 480/580	Special Topics in Political Sci
-----		Poli 490	Seminar for Pol Sci Majors

Eliminated Courses

Govt 100	Current Pol Issues	(1 hr)
Govt 101	Registration/Voting	(1 hr)
Govt 313	Public Personnel Admn	
Govt 316	International Politics	
Govt 351	Local Govt and Administration	
Govt 351	U.S. Diplomacy 18th/19th Cent	
Govt 400	Seminar U.S. Government	
Govt 401	Readings in Government	
Govt 402	National Security Seminar	
Govt 411	International Law	

In 1996 the department adopted a plan for hiring new faculty to further strengthen the B.A. in Government program (subsequently Political Science), which it has implemented as follows.

In 1996 the department strengthened its Political Science faculty by hiring a new tenure-track Assistant Professor—Dr. Margaret Gonzalez-Perez (Ph.D., Louisiana State University) in International Relations. She earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor effective 2002-2003.

In 1997 the department strengthened its Political Science faculty by hiring a new tenure-track Assistant Professor—Dr. Peter Petrakis (Ph.D., Louisiana State University) in American Politics (also Constitutional Law and Southern Politics). He earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor effective 2002-2003.

In 2002 the department strengthened its Political Science faculty by hiring a new tenure-track Assistant Professor—Dr. Manabu Saeki (Ph.D., Louisiana State University) in Public Administration / Public Policy.

Veteran department faculty member Dr. Kurt Corbello currently holds the Johnny R. Smith Professorship in History and Political Science (2002-2005).

In the period since the new B.A. in Political Science curriculum was implemented, the department has significantly upgraded the research collection in the Sims Memorial Library. It also has had considerable input into the library's decision to acquire numerous on-line research tools, including Ingenta and JSTOR, to name but a few.

In 1991 the Department of History and Political Science and the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice founded the Florida Parishes Social Science Research Center to provide Southeastern's social science students with high-quality research experience and skills, to offer social science research services to local and regional communities, and to provide faculty with enhanced opportunities for scholarly research.

In 2001 these two departments moved into Fayard Hall, a new technology-rich classroom building, which includes new state-of-the-art facilities for the FPSSRC. Among other things, Political Science majors acquire hands-on experience with polling under the supervision of nationally recognized pollster Dr. Kurt Corbello and laboratory work in research methods and statistics.

In response to student demand for greater exposure to scholars from both on-campus and off-campus, the Department of History and Political Science has increased its role in Fanfare, the university's annual celebration (October) of the arts and humanities: after many years of informal participation, the department inaugurated the "Then and Now" Fanfare History and Politics Lecture Series in 2002. It also is the sole sponsor for the Black History Month Lecture Series (February), is co-sponsor of the Deep Delta Civil War Symposium (June), the Matheny Lectures on Science and Religion (April), the Southeast Louisiana Historical Association Lectures (April and December), and Women's History Month (March), provides sponsorship for numerous individual lectures, and helps generate an audience for the Morrison

Lecture on Politics and Government sponsored each year by the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies. All of these events frequently feature presentations related to politics and Political Science.

In 2002 the Board of Regents recognized the Department of History and Political Science as forming part of an Area of Excellence in Creative Arts and Cultural Studies along with the Department of English, the Department of Music and Dramatic Arts, and the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies.