

# PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN ~ 2013-14 through 2018-19

*This document only needs to be updated when changes are made.*

<b>UNIT</b>	<b>COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES</b>
<b>Department (if applicable)</b>	<b>POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION</b>
<b>Degree/Program</b>	<b>Bachelor of Arts</b>
<b>Date Prepared</b>	<b>April 28, 2014</b>
<b>Date Revised</b>	<b>Updated to New Form (6/12/15)</b>

## PROGRAM MISSION

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The Department of Political Science provides the curriculum for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and the Bachelor of Public Administration degrees and Certificate of Non-Profit Management.

The mission of the department of political science is to teach and research in political science to serve a clientele that enrolls in its courses for several different reasons including: (1) meeting general education requirements, (2) meeting major or minor requirements for other departments and majors, (3) meeting the cognitive needs of departmental majors, (4) assisting students in meeting the professional development needs of their present or future employment, and (5) meeting the course needs of students and the community who are interested in politics, political issues, and/or public policy.

Political Science is the international academic discipline that studies governments, public policies, political behavior, social movements and the exercise of power in politics in all countries and regions of the world, using both humanistic and scientific perspectives and skills. See <http://www.apsanet.org>

Public Administration is both a sub-field of political science, and the main semi-independent professional field that studies and trains personnel for employment in either the public and/or non-profit sectors of American society, and in the management and policy skills needed in the public sector. See: [http://www.naspa.org/about\\_naspa/naspa.asp](http://www.naspa.org/about_naspa/naspa.asp)

## PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (PSLO)

*If the program has more than 6 PSLO, hit "Tab" in the last cell to add another row. Cells will expand to accommodate text.*

**Upon completion of the program students will be able to:**

<b>PSLO 1</b>	Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the political institutions and political processes of the governments of the United States.
<b>PSLO 2</b>	Demonstrate a basic knowledge of international political issues, international organizations, and the world political economy.
<b>PSLO 3</b>	Demonstrate a basic knowledge of other national governing systems, and other national and regional group perspectives of political power and political economy through the application of the techniques of comparative politics.
<b>PSLO 4</b>	Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the tenets of western political philosopher, with emphasis on those that have been most contributory to the political philosophies of representative democracy, state socialism, and Marxist Communism.
<b>PSLO 5</b>	Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the principles and problems of complex organizations and processes associated with public and civil society administration.

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<b>PSLO 6</b>	Demonstrate the ability to interpret the meaning and significance of quantitative and qualitative data, and possess a basic understanding the methodologies associated with gathering such data.
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## CURRICULUM MAP (Alignment)

List all courses required for program majors and indicate, where applicable, (using the following key) the PSLO with which they are associated.

T = Taught

X = Taught and Assessed

A = Assessed

If the program has more than 6 PSLO, "Copy and Paste" rows from this table below the existing table, beginning with the row numbering the PSLO.

Required Courses	PSLO 1	PSLO 2	PSLO 3	PSLO 4	PSLO 5	PSLO 6
PO 106	X	T		T	T	T
PO 107	X				T	T
PO 225		X				
PO 235			X			
PO 245	T				X	T
PO 275				X		
PO 390						X
PO 450	X	X	A	X	X	
307 option	X		X		X	X

## ASSESSMENT MEASURES (Method)

Indicate (mark with an X) the type of assessment used to evaluate each PSLO.

Check as many boxes as apply.

Programs should use at least 2 direct measures for each PSLO.

If the program has more than 6 PSLO, "Copy and Paste" rows from this table below the existing table, beginning with the row numbering the PSLO.

	PSLO 1	PSLO 2	PSLO 3	PSLO 4	PSLO 5	PSLO 6
<b>DIRECT</b>						
Portfolio						
Performance Assessment (Art, Music, Theatre, etc.)						
Performance Assessment (Off campus experience – Clinical, Internship, Practicum, etc.)	X	X	X		X	X
Professional Credentialing Exam						
Major Field Test or National Exam	X	X	X	X		X
Course Embedded Assignment	X	X	X	X	X	X
Project Evaluation (e.g. research)						X
Course Grades	X	X	X	X	X	X
Other (Describe)						
<b>INDIRECT</b>						
Surveys	X	X	X	X	X	X

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Exit Interviews/Focus Groups	X	X	X		X	X
Other (Describe)						

## THRESHOLD OF STUDENT SUCCESS

For each PSLO, list each measure separately and indicate the threshold of student achievement considered acceptable.

*(example: 75% of students will receive B or better) - see Assessment Plan Guide for additional instructions.*

*Hit :Tab" in the last cell to add another row. Cells will expand to accommodate text.*

PSLO	MEASURE	THRESHOLD
1	Performance Assessment	
	ACAT Major Field Test	
	Course Embedded Assignment	
	Course Grades	
	Survey	
2	Exit Interviews	
	Performance Assessment	
	ACAT Major Field Test	
	Course Embedded Assignment	
	Course Grades	
3	Survey	
	Exit Interviews	
	Performance Assessment	
	ACAT Major Field Test	
	Course Embedded Assignment	
4	Course Grades	
	Survey	
	Course Embedded Assignment	
	ACAT Major Field Test	
5	Course Grades	
	Survey	
	Course Embedded Assignment	
	Performance Assessment	
6	Exit Interviews	
	Survey	
	Course Grades	
	Project Evaluation	
	Course Embedded Assignment	
	ACAT Major Field Test	

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## DATA COLLECTION CALENDAR

Indicate how often assessment data are collected for each PSLO.

S=every semester

Y=every year

2=every other year

3=every 3 years, (etc.)

O-Other (please explain)

*If the program has more than 6 PSLO, hit "Tab" in the last cell to add another row.*

	Frequency of Data Collection
PSLO 1	S
PSLO 2	Y
PSLO 3	Y
PSLO 4	Y
PSLO 5	Y
PSLO 6	Y

## ANALYSIS AND REPORTING CALENDAR

Indicate (mark with an X) the years in which each PSLO was/will be analyzed and reported.

Cycle will repeat after Year 6.

*If the program has more than 6 PSLO, "Copy and Paste" rows from this table below the existing table, beginning with the row numbering the PSLO.*

	PSLO 1	PSLO 2	PSLO 3	PSLO 4	PSLO 5	PSLO 6
Year 1/2013-14	X					
Year 2/2014-15						
Year 3/2015-16	X	X	X		X	X
Year 4/2016-17						
Year 5/2017-18				X		
Year 6/2018-19	X	X	X	X	X	X

**If field experiences are a significant part of the program, explicitly address how validity and reliability of the evaluation instrument is ensured.**

*Cell will expand to accommodate text.*

**Field experiences** are what the 3 credit hour Internship course PO307 are about, both for the Political Science BA degree, and the Public Administration BPA and Non Profit Management degree and certificate. Our Internship course PO307 is a required course for the BPA public administration and non-profit management degree (3 to 6 credit hours), and is an optional course elective (3 to 6 credit hours) for the general Political Science BA degree.

Our Internship 3 – 6 credit hour academic courses each year place MORE Student Interns in state government (30 – 40 per year) than the TOTALS of all other Kansas Regents Universities government & Legislative internships COMBINED. About one fifth of our Internships are PAID.

Washburn Political Science Internships tend to be Legislative Internships in the State Legislature, with a few in government agencies (Mayor's office), and overseas (London Summer Program). Public Administration degree Internships tend to be in government agencies, or any of 300 non-profit agencies. These are supervised by individual faculty, with required reports from Agency or Legislator supervisors. The courses require reflective essay papers by the student which are based on required academic theoretical readings (this is **Performance Assessment** for PO307). The printed Guidelines

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for the supervision and grading, used for more than a decade, are the means of "standardizing" the experience for "validity and reliability" and they can be provided, if this amount of supervisory detail is needed.

In addition to the Internship courses, we also regularly provide full-course Field Experiences in 3 credit hour courses on the Kansas State Legislature PO309, the National Presidential Election Race PO386 (the Iowa Presidential Caucuses), and summer 3 credit hour courses to Cuba, China, England, and other countries. These 300 level and above courses are constructed in the same manner as all other degree major courses. These are mostly non-required courses. Thus a modest qualitative summary of Field Experiences Performance Assessment for these courses and others that may adopt this process, and exit surveys of graduates of PO405 and alumni will be provided June 2016 in the program report (for the year 2015-2016), and only every 3 years thereafter.

## STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

**Describe how stakeholders (faculty, students, alumni, advisory boards, community, etc.) are involved in the development, implementation, periodic review and continuous improvement of the Assessment Plan.**

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**DEVELOPMENT.** The Faculty Liaison (Dr. Chris Hamilton) was appointed September 2013. Dr. Hamilton has a doctoral exam area in Evaluation Research methods, and over the decades has taught those courses. Through the Fall, Dr. Hamilton attended training meetings and met with Mentors and consultants. From November through March, briefing meetings were held with Department Faculty. The first complete U-SLO exam was developed, administered, reported by the end of the Fall 2014 Semester. The exam was then revised in December and January, with the assistance and participation of Drs. Modellmogg, Hamilton, and Beatty. An SLO Assessment requirements and training session for the Department Faculty, with illustrative documents was held in early March. Individual training and consulting sessions with Faculty by Dr. Hamilton were instituted, so that Faculty could prepare compliance for reporting for U-SLO course reports by the end of the Spring 2014 Semester. This revised **Assessment Plan for the Political Science degree program PSLOs** was written by Dr. Hamilton, with Faculty review and revisions in March and early April. Drs. Modellmogg and Beatty early on worked throughout the Spring of 2013, and the Fall of 2014 to devise U-SLO and also PSLO department outcome measures for **Course Embedded Exercises**, and also for **Revised Exams covering PSLOs** to measure BOTH the U-SLOs and PSLOs for their gen ed AND Political Science required Major Courses **PO 225 and PO 235**. Dr. Tom Schmiedeler also did the same in Spring 2013, and in February of 2014 for his gen ed course World Regional Geography 102. (This is the only course Dr. Schmiedeler needs to prepare, because at this time Spring 2014 there is no Bachelor's degree or Major for Geography). Drs. Peterson and Hamilton are working on the U-SLOs and PSLOs for PO 107 (**to be implemented Fall 2014**) and the BPA degree program plan (**to be submitted April 2015**).

**IMPLEMENTATION.** Faculty submitted their first U-SLO reports for PO 106 in the Fall of 2013. However consultations with Drs. LaLonde and Margaret Wood have led to considerable revisions in this test instrument. Faculty insisted that the National Citizenship Exam be blended and merged with the item questions for the Gen Ed SLO, and implemented in the Spring and subsequent courses. **Drs. Hamilton, Beatty, Modellmogg, and Cann will administer this revised Gen Ed U-SLO assessment and PSLO 1 assessment in PO 106 this Spring 2014. Drs. Beatty and Modellmogg will also implement U-SLO and PSLO assessments in both PO 225 and PO 235 in Spring 2014.** Drs. Hamilton and Peterson will administer the first Gen Ed SLO assessments for PO 107 in the Fall of 2014 (revisions underway). The end of June 2014 report will contain these data summaries of this Implementation of both U-SLO and PSLO assessment in these required courses.

**PSLO/U-SLO combined data gathering assessments** will also be administered next academic year 2014-15 by the Faculty in all the above required courses of PO 106, 107 (every semester), 225, 235 (alternating semesters), **plus in 2014-15 the REMAINING required Major courses of: 245 (once a year), 390 Quantitative Research (once a year) and 450 Senior Seminar (every Spring Semester, for graduating seniors), 307 (once a year), and GG 120 (once a year).** PSLO **and** U-SLO "measures" together will comprise 30% or more of total final exam points, and are mostly a mix of lower and higher learning Direct Measures, as follows.

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**G = gen ed.**

**M = degree major requirement.**

**M# = major requirement option vs other course options (106 or 107; any three of 225/235/245/275).**

**G/M# = both a gen ed and major requirement.**

<u>BEGINNING TIME:</u>			<u>* Other Assessment</u>		
	<u>PSLO / USLO</u>		<u>National US</u>	<u>ACAT Nat'l</u>	
	<u>Test Questions</u>	<u>Embedded Exercises</u>	<u>Citizenship Exam</u>	<u>Polit. Sci. Exam</u>	
PO 106	G/M# (Sp '14)	Yes	No	Yes	---
	(F '14)	Yes	Yes	Yes	---
PO 107	G/M# (F '14)	Yes	Yes	No	---
PO 225	G/M# (Sp & F'14)	Yes	Yes	No	---
PO 235	G/M# (Sp & F '14)	Yes	Yes	No	---
Geog 120	G (2014-15)	Yes	Yes	No	---
PO 245	G/M# (2014-15)	Yes	Yes	No	---
PO 275	M# not taught until 2016-17		to be determined		
PO 307	M# (Sp 2015)	No	<b>* Performance Assessment</b>	No	---
PO 390	M (2014-15)	Yes	Yes;	No	<b>* RESEARCH Presentation</b>
PO 450	M Sp 2015	Yes	No	No	<b>*YES; * Exit Interviews</b>
					<b>*YES; *Outside Reviewers</b>

**PERIODIC REVIEW.** Now through next year 2015, individual and all-department faculty meetings will be held. All faculty participating. Future review and revision for the next two academic years will come mainly by means of individual meetings between Dr. Hamilton, and individual faculty.

**The BPA program** courses **ASSESSMENT Plan details** will be worked out in academic year 2014-15 (plan submitted April 30 2015; implementation and data gathering in years 2016-18) by Drs. Hamilton and Peterson (the only 2 fulltime faculty in Public Administration) as the Political Science Plan is being implemented. **See the BPA Assessment Plan submission** for more details.

**Improvements:** Each Fall and Spring Drs. Hamilton and Peterson will call a faculty meeting, and also Dr. Hamilton will engage in individual meetings with faculty, to conduct on-going reviews and improvement suggestions. **\*Graduating student and alumni exit interviews will be added for both Majors (see above).**

**Semester Data Collection:** Dr. Hamilton will devise, maintain and update the database every semester, with the assistance of Dr. Cann. Reports will be submitted by Dr. Hamilton, according to the Time Plan submitted above. The need for the exact timing of continuing review will emerge as facts play out over the next two years until 2016.

**\*OUTSIDE Reviewer** as an indirect assessment, in the form of a political science alumni advisory council, will be formed next academic year 2014-15. They will receive this and next year's Reports, and will give us feedback by Spring break of 2015, and this feedback will be incorporated into the 2015-16 Report. This feedback will be solicited again in time for the 2018-19 Report, and every 3 years thereafter.

**EXIT Interviews of Seniors graduating and completing PO 450** will be implemented for the Spring of 2015 PO 450 course, introducing that "assessment element" for the June 30 2015, and for every graduating senior class each year thereafter. That data will appear in the every 3 year reports, the first being 2016, then 2019, and thereafter.

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## PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN REVIEW CYCLE

Indicate (mark with an X in column 2) the year(s) in which this Program Assessment Plan will be reviewed and indicate in column 3 (when applicable) when changes are made and addressed in the appropriate year's annual report.

*Cycle repeats after Year 6.*

	Program Assessment Plan Review	Were changes made and addressed in the Annual Report? <u>Yes</u> or <u>No</u> (update when applicable)
Year 1/2013-14	X	YES – March 2014
Year 2/2014-15		
Year 3/2015-16		
Year 4/2016-17	X	
Year 5/2017-18		
Year 6/2018-19	X	