

# Assessment of Student Learning Plan: **Political Science Dept**

Review of 2012-13 Academic Year

University of Southern Maine

## A. College, Department or Program, Date

College CAHS  
Department or Program Political Science  
Date May 27, 2013

## B. Department or Program Chair: Francesca Vassallo

*\*(person responsible for completing this form)*

## C. Degree or other Program: B.A. in Political Science

## D. Assessment of Student Learning

### **1: Has your department identified any Student Learning Outcomes? (What are students able to do by the end of your program?)**

- a. *List the most important student learning outcomes (3-5) that have been agreed upon in your department. Then, identify which student learning outcome (1-2) was assessed this past year.*

#### *Political Science Program Learning Outcomes:*

1. Students will acquire knowledge of the American political system, its institutions and tenets. (POS101)
2. Students will understand the functioning of governments across borders and eras, as actors within the larger international context. (POS104, 205)
3. Students will learn some of the many theories dominating political thought and behavior, as well as their application to real cases. (POS203, 290)

4. Students will demonstrate excellent written and oral communication skills, through the preparation of short and long research papers as well as presentations in the classroom and other appropriate public venues such as student conferences, for instance. (Upper level courses)
5. Student will show understanding of work ethic and test their analytical skills through appropriate internship positions, when possible. (POS47X)
6. Students will develop a balanced mastery of theoretical and empirical skills through the study of domestic or international problems, while experiencing different forms of communication. (Upper level courses).

*Political Science Program Learning Outcomes assessed in 2012-2013: 1-6.*

- b. *If your department/program does NOT have any student learning outcome statements yet, please check here\_\_\_\_\_.*

**2: How and When will the Learning Outcomes be assessed?**

- a. *Briefly describe the forms of evidence that were utilized this past year to demonstrate students' accomplishment of the learning outcome(s) selected, and when you implemented the assessment.*

*Forms of evidence of implementation of learning outcomes, generally done throughout the academic year over a series of years for the Political Science major:*

*-performance tests, papers and essays, case studies, student portfolios, presentations, individual and group projects (across many courses)*

*-internships (POS47X)*

*-opinions of student perceptions of advising or departmental services*

- b. *If your department/program did NOT assess any outcomes in the past year, please check here\_\_\_\_\_.*

**3: How did you use the Assessment results to Improve Student Learning?**

- a. *Briefly describe your unit's process for using the assessment data to improve student learning, and state what improvements or changes are being planned based upon the assessment results.*

b. *If your department has NOT reviewed any assessment results in the past year, please check here*  *.*

**Comments:**

Question: Does the program absolutely need to improve student learning if the results collected do not suggest need for further improvement?