

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science Integrated Program Matrix

(updated August 17, 2005)

University Student Learning Goals & Outcomes	Core Competencies	Program Student Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria and Measures	Use of Assessment Results for Continuous Improvement
Florida Gulf Coast University	College of Professional Studies	Bachelor of Arts in Political Science	Bachelor of Arts in Political Science	Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
<p>Aesthetic Sensibility: know, understand, analyze, and evaluate the variety of aesthetic frameworks and principles at work; collaborate in projects involving aesthetic awareness/analysis (through program outcome 3).</p> <p>Culturally Diverse Perspective: know and understand diversity in local/global communities; analyze and evaluate the impact of cultural differences; and participate in projects involving interaction with diverse people, ideas and values (through program outcomes 2, 3).</p> <p>Ecological Perspective: know issues of ecological/economic sustainability; analyze and evaluate local & global ecological issues; participate in ecological/ environmental projects (through program outcomes 2, 3).</p> <p>Effective Communication: know principles for effective communication; organize thoughts and compose ideas; and participate in collaborative communication projects (through program outcome 4).</p> <p>Ethical Responsibility: know and understand ethical issues; analyze and evaluate ethical issues in a variety of contexts; and participate in collaborative projects involving ethical analysis and/or discussions (through program outcome 5).</p> <p>Information Literacy: identify and locate sources of information; analyze and evaluate information in a variety of contexts; and participate in collaborative analysis/application of information (through program outcome 8).</p> <p>Problem-Solving Abilities: Understand multi/interdisciplinary nature of knowledge; apply critical, analytical, creative and systems thinking; and work individually and collaboratively to recognize and solve problems (through program outcome 7).</p> <p>Technological Literacy: Develop knowledge of modern technology; process information through use of technology; and collaborate with others using technology tools (through program outcomes 6, 8).</p> <p>Community Awareness and Involvement: Know and understand relationships between individuals and their</p>	<p>All programs in the College of Professional Studies link students' learning experiences to the needs of communities and their members.</p> <p>These programs are all designed to meet the College goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare students to respond in innovative ways to the evolving social, political, economic, and natural environments in which policy-making and service delivery are carried out. • Cultivate an ethic of public integrity and civic engagement in professional, political, and community activities. • Develop an understanding of the multi-cultural and increasingly global contexts within which public problems emerge, as well as an ability to formulate interdisciplinary strategies for their identification and resolution. • Cultivate the knowledge, skills, and personal attributes required for life-long growth and development. 	<p>FGCU Students earning a B.A. Degree in Political Science will develop:</p> <p>1. An understanding of how political institutions, processes, laws, and ideas combine to influence policy and political outcomes.</p>	<p>Instructor will keep records of successful completion of comprehensive final exam and/or research paper in POS 3043, American Political Institutions and PUP 4004, Policymaking and Administration</p>	<p>During the 2004-2005 academic year, the program's assessment focused on the learning outcome of "effective communication." As a <i>direct measure</i>, the program used an April 25-29 assessment of graduating Political Science majors' performance on their POS 4936 Senior Seminar paper, utilizing a grading rubric designed to help measure communication skills (grade assessments were completed for all of the Senior Seminar's 17 students). As an <i>indirect measure</i>, the program administered a survey questionnaire on communication skills to graduating Political Science majors on April 18 (16 of 17 students responded, for a 94% response rate).</p> <p>With respect to the direct measure, student performance on the Senior Seminar paper was as follows: A=10 of 17 (58%), A-=2 (12%), B+=3 (18%), B=1 (6%), C+=1 (6%), with the mean performance at 3.68 on a 4.0 grade scale. With respect to the indirect measure, 85% of the students surveyed "agreed" or "mostly agreed" that the B.A. Political Science program strengthened their writing skills, 80% "agreed" or "mostly agreed" that the program strengthened their speaking skills, 85% "agreed" or "mostly agreed" that the program strengthened their ability to</p>
		<p>2 An understanding of transnational conflict and collaboration and their impacts on policymaking.</p>	<p>Instructor will keep records of successful completion of comprehensive final exam and/or research paper in INR 3002, Introduction to International Relations</p>	
		<p>3. An understanding of the reciprocal influences between culture and politics, with particular emphasis on an understanding of the symbolic and material impacts of culture on policymaking.</p>	<p>Instructor will keep records of successful completion of comprehensive final exam and/or research paper in POT 3075, Culture and Politics</p>	
		<p>4. Written and spoken communication skills, with particular emphasis on the development of strategic communication skills tailored to both objectives and audiences.</p>	<p>Instructor will keep records of successful completion of comprehensive final exam and/or research paper in POS 4936, Senior Seminar in Political Science</p>	
		<p>5. An understanding of the conflicts between politics and ethics in contemporary pluralistic and bureaucratic environments</p>	<p>Instructor will keep records of successful completion of comprehensive final exam and/or research paper in POT 3501, Politics and Ethics</p>	
		<p>6. The ability to find, interpret, evaluate, and apply both traditional text-based and contemporary electronic sources of information.</p>	<p>Instructor will keep records of successful completion of comprehensive final exam and/or research paper in POS 4936, Senior Seminar in Political Science</p>	

communities; analyze, evaluate and assess human needs and practices; and participate collaboratively in community service projects (through program outcomes 1, 2, 3).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate multiple, state-of-the-art technologies into the learning environment and develop students' abilities to use technology creatively in their work. Develop comprehensive field-based experiences linked to individual and community development. 	7. An ability to conceptualize questions and problems in a comprehensive fashion.	Instructor will keep records of successful completion of comprehensive final exam and/or research paper in POS 4936, Senior Seminar in Political Science	organize ideas, and 70% "agreed" or "mostly agreed" that the program strengthened their ability to formulate arguments. Assessment results are included as a discussion item at the division's annual retreat at the outset of the 2005-2006 academic year. In addition, are being used as a baseline to continually monitor students' communication skills, as well as to monitor students' assessments of the B.A. Political Science program's effectiveness in strengthening their communication skills. Based on annual monitoring and review by program faculty, modifications in the program's curricula likely to enhance students' communication skills will be implemented.
		8. Knowledge of how to conduct quantitative and qualitative research to address political issues and problems.	Instructor will keep records of successful completion of comprehensive final exam and/or research paper in POS 4734, Research Methods and Analysis in Political Science	

Program Description

Political Science is the central field for imparting knowledge of political processes, political values, and public policy. It also plays a key role in cultivating critical thinking and problem-solving skills. This combination of knowledge and skills is valuable not only for individuals engaged directly in public policy-making and administration, but also for those involved in business and non-profit activities. In recent years acquiring the knowledge and skills associated with Political Science has taken on a heightened urgency due to the complexities of an increasingly global economy and diverse U.S. population, as well as to the increasingly intricate relationships between public-sector, private-sector, and non-profit organizations. Adding to this sense of urgency in Florida is the state's rapid pace of demographic change and the delicate environmental constraints within which its sustainable planning and development efforts must be carried out.

The BA program in Political Science is designed to provide students with the analytical tools needed to address local, regional, and national public policy issues, as well as to achieve their career objectives. Using a variety of innovative approaches, it provides students with the knowledge and skills essential for dealing with the emerging trends reshaping the political landscape.

A baccalaureate degree in Political Science can aid a student's career pursuits in local, state, and federal government, research and lobbying for business and non-profit organizations, and public interest work for community service organizations. A baccalaureate degree in Political Science also provides an excellent foundation for students who intend to pursue graduate study in law, business, or the social sciences.