CAPSTONE PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT

Academic Affairs - Political Science

Program Information

Manager / Dean
Dr. Walter Jones

Goals

<div align="center">**2020-2024**</div>

Executive Summary and Narrative

Provide a brief account of the program evaluation process.
- While the Political Science Department is constantly evaluating and assessing its pursuit toward departmental goals; most of the aggregation of data and analysis of this review occurred between Fall 2019 and Spring 2020. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and working from our home computers; we were no longer able to access the Tableau software as we finalized this report. As a result, we were unable to link to the cited data.

- The central achievements of the last four years have been the department's ability to increase retention and success rates.

- The department is concerned with declining enrollment rates. However, enrollment declines are consistent with college-wide trends. Consequently, the department views the enrollment declines as more of a systemic and college issue, than a departmental issue.

Description of Program

Alignment with Santa Ana College's vision, mission, values and regional and national standards

Students Served

Curriculum

Support and Services

SAC Focused: Guided Pathways and Equity & Vision Goals

Summary/Conclusion

<div align="center">**2021-2025**</div>

Executive Summary and Narrative

Provide a brief account of the program evaluation process.
The Political Science Department is constantly evaluating and assessing its pursuit toward departmental goals. All of the analysis of this review was conducted using the available data provided by the RSCCD Research Department (along with student evaluations).

Provide key accomplishments since the last 4-year review and major recommendations for the next 4.
- The central achievements of the last four years have been the department's ability to increase retention and success rates.

- Other achievements include:

- o Creating an online Political Science AAT degree

- o Updating POLT 101 (now POLS C1000) to be aligned with the curriculum of the Common Course Number system (CCN)

- While the enrollment decline experienced from 2017-2021 has stabalized, the department remains concerned about discussions surrounding the potential elimination of the American Institutions CSU graduation requirement. *The American Institutions requirement essentially requires all CSU students to complete POLT 101/POLS C1000 at some point in their college career. Eliminating this requirement would have a catostrophic impact on enrollment in our department.*

Include program review team members (if applicable).
Philippe Andrade and Tim Murphy

Description of Program

Summarize the history of this program on campus (briefly).
- The Political Science Department offers a variety of courses designed to prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities and provide training for professions associated with political and governmental services.

Courses offered
- POLT 101/POLS C1000 – Introduction to American Government

- POLT 200 – American Political Thought

- POLT 201 – Comparative Politics

- POLT 220 – International Relations

- POLT 235 – Identity Politics

Department Goals
- Maintain a 90% Retention Rate Across the Department

- Achieve a 70% "Pass" Rate Across the Department

- Revise and Create Curriculum Consistent with UC/CSU Course Political Science Course Offerings

- Update ADT degree to be consistent with C-ID and Cal-GETC changes

Amount of program's faculty and staff (FT/PT, staffing ...).
Two full-time faculty, and two adjunct faculty members.

Alignment with Santa Ana College's vision, mission, values and regional and national standards

Explain how the program's mission aligns with the College's mission.
All department goals are aimed to increase success rates across all student groups SAC serves.

Has the purpose of the program changed in the past 4 years?
The purpose of the Political Science Department has not changed in the last four years. Fundamentally, the program is designed toward student success, and best assisting SAC students to transfer, or complete their certificate goals ASAP.

Do you expect the purpose to change in the next 4 years?
No, as long as the purpose and goals of SAC do not change.

Students Served

Student Learning Outcomes Assessments (Faculty Driven - programs showcase their own assessments)
<u>General SLO Conclusions</u>
- <u>Student Strengths</u>
  - Retaining lectured information
  - Answering in written, subjective examination format
  - Retaining information from the text specified by the instructor

- <u>Student Weaknesses</u>
  - Ability to critically evaluate subjective information
  - Explaining and defending viewpoints different from their own
  - Analyzing and synthesizing objective information delivered via classroom or text

- <u>Recommended Changes</u>
  - Delivering material that facilitates more critical thought and discussion.
  - Incorporate more basic skills strategies into course material.
  - Emphasize synthesis and analysis of information in addition to simple retention of information.

- <u>ILO/PLO General Conclusions (Communication Skills and Thinking/Reasoning)</u>
  - Students displayed a difficulty differentiating the difference between expressing an analytical argument vs. an opinionated argument. (Communication)
  - Students displayed a difficulty expressing counter arguments that demonstrate processing the viewpoints of others. (Communication) - Students are generally strong in retaining information, but much weaker in analyzing information. (Thinking and Reasoning)
  - Students displayed a difficulty in abstracting logical conclusions, asking critical questions, or challenging assertions in presented information. (Thinking and Reasoning)

Demographics (see the Program Review website to the right for data paths and links)
- The demographic breakdown of political science students is generally representative of the SAC student population. With the exception of a slight over-representation of Latino students, all other demographic groups appear to be proportionally represented within the program. Given that POLT 101 comprises a large majority of the department's course offerings and that all transfer students must complete POLT 101, it is expected that the department's student population be demographically proportional to the campus at large. Any demographic inconsistencies with the general SAC population can likely be explained by student goals being varied by demographic group.

- Without getting into specific courses and demographic groups; success and retention rates by demographic group are consistent with college-wide rates. The only notable exception is that Latino success rates among Political Science courses are higher than the college average.

Student Satisfaction (see program review website to the right for data paths and links)
- Student opinion of the program is limited to the data coming from student evaluations of the faculty. Though student evaluations are confidential, all faculty members within the department (including all current adjuncts) have received positive evaluations from the majority of their students. Implicitly, the high enrollment numbers and high retention rates among political science courses indicate that students are

generally pleased with the quality of instruction.

 One common complaint that political science majors have informally expressed is the limited number of non-101 courses offered on a semester basis. In response to this complaint, the department now offers all 200-level courses in BOTH in-person and online modalities within two years. This gives students the opportunity to take all required major courses in-person or online within their 2-year pathway.

- Online course offerings have increased since 2021. Retention, success, and student satisfaction rates have not decreased.

Student Success (see program review website to right for data paths and links)
As mentioned earlier, the program's greatest strength is in its high retention and success rates. The greatest current challenge to the department is increasing success rates among 200-level students, as well as increasing the number of Political Science AAT degree completions.**

- The average retention rate among ALL political science courses that have been offered during the fall/winter/spring/summer semesters from 2021-2023 was 95%. Breakdown by course is below.

POLT 101 - 95%
POLT 200 - 90%
POLT 201 - 95%
POLT 220 - 95%
POLT 235 - 94%

- The success rates among ALL political science courses that have been offered during the fall/winter/spring/summer semesters from 2021-2023 was 78.2%. Breakdown by course is below.

POLT 101 - 78%
POLT 200 - 69%*
POLT 201 - 75%
POLT 220 - 87%
POLT 235 - 77%

Below SAC average success rate of 75%.
** *The data supports the department's suspicion that Political Science transfers and graduates are being undercounted. Many Political Science students are being incorrectly recorded as "Liberal Arts" majors. RSCCD data continues to show "Liberal Arts" as the most common major among SAC transfer students. Given Cal-GETC and ADT requirements needed for transfer, the departments does not understand how so many students are still transferring as "Liberal Arts" majors. Anecdotal conversations with Political Science students also supports this theory. Many Political Science students are not in fact Political Science majors, but "Liberal Arts" majors.*

Curriculum

Summary of Program Courses
- The department seeks to make improvements within its current course offerings that will aid in student success. Additionally, the department seeks to expand its course offerings to provide students with additional opportunities for academic and intellectual growth that will prepare them for university transfer. The department also seeks to expand the methods of delivery for its course offerings so that they will be more widely available to a greater cross-section of students throughout the community.

- Currently, five political science courses are being offered at Santa Ana College on a continuing basis: Introduction to American Government, American Political Thought, Comparative Politics, Identity Politics, and International Relations. While these five broad survey courses may be sufficient for current students who intend to major in political science when transferring to a four-year university, we could increase student interest in the possibility of majoring in the discipline by offering some new courses. One proposed

course would involve an introductory course in political theory. Though specific to American political theory, a theory course is currently offered. The department is currently hesitant to offer a broader theory course because we are unsure whether there is sufficient student demand.

- The course content sections of the CoRs for POLT 101, 201, and 220 were restructured to better match the content of the CoR of the C-ID. This was done to avoid any potential consistency issues between our department's courses, and the state's C-ID approved courses.

- POLT 101 (now POLS C1000) was updated to mirror the curriculum for the common course numbering system currently being implemented at the statewide level.

- The Political Science ADT continues to be updated to stay current with state requirements.

- Technological Use - All in-person courses are taught using power-point presentations and multi-media resources. Films and documentaries are frequently used to relate course concepts to contemporary issues. In addition, several instructors within the department use CPS interactive technology that allows students to respond to in-class poll and question by using remote controlled "clicker." The different technological resources incorporated into the classroom allow content to be delivered in multiple ways so that students have an increased chance of grasping the material regardless of their specific learning styles.
   In addition to the technological resources incorporated into the classroom, the department also offers at least one (two in most cases)

   o All courses are offered in online modalities. Several online sections of POLT 101/POLS C1000 are offered during the Fall/Winter/Spring/Summer semesters. Each 200-level course is offered in an online modality once every two years. POLT 200 is offered every even numbered Fall Semester; POLT 201 is offered every odd numbered Fall Semester; POLT 220 is offered every odd numbered Spring Semester; and POLT 235 is offered every even numbered Spring Semester.

New Courses/Degrees/Certificates - Student Learning Outcomes/Program Learning Outcomes
An online Political Science ADT was created in 2021.

New Courses/Degrees/Certificates - Data Analysis
2021-2024
AATs Awarded - 44
AAs Awarded - 18
Sectoion modality breakdown: 60% Online, 40% In-Person

According to the FTES data provided by the RSCCD Research Department: Over the last four years, the department's enrollment low of 1,555 students ocurrent in the 2021-22 academic year. Enrollment has steadily increased since with 1,764 students in 2022-23, and 1,993 students in 2023-24. These numbers are still below the pre-COVID numbers (2,266 in 2019-20).

Distance Education additions - Student Learning Outcomes
- All five courses offered by the department are offered in an online asynchronous modality.

- Several online sections of POLT 101/POLS C1000 are offered during the Fall/Winter/Spring/Summer semesters. Each 200-level course is offered in an online modality once every two years. POLT 200 is offered every even numbered Fall Semester; POLT 201 is offered every odd numbered Fall Semester; POLT 220 is offered every odd numbered Spring Semester; and POLT 235 is offered every even numbered Spring Semester.

Distance Education additions - Data Analysis
Retention and Success Rates by Modality (Range: low/high)

Capstone Program Review

Online (Intersession 21-Spring 23)
- Retention Rate Avg: 96%

- Success Rate Avg: 82%

In-Person (Intersession 21-Spring 23)
- Retention Rate Avg: 94%

- Success Rate Avg: 80%

Innovations or Changes
Since the last Capstone review in 2020, the modality of course delivery has drastically changed. Prior to Spring 2020; no more than 10% of course sections within our department were offered in an online modality. Currently, roughly 60% of our course sections are offered in an online modality.
Student demand continues to be overwhelming in favor of online modalities. Online offerings fill faster, and with more robust enrollment.

Support and Services

Technology
- For many years, the department has recommended that struggling students in Political Science 101 take advantage of the tutorial services offered at the campus Learning Center.

- Beginning in the 2012 Spring Semester, Dr. Philippe Andrade began hosting "How to Study" workshops for all Political Science 101 students. These workshops have focused on developing the student's note taking skills, exam preparation, and in-class essay writing. These workshops were voluntarily established to address a very noticeable student population taking political science courses that enroll without the necessary academic skills to be successful at the collegiate level.

- Over 60% of course sections are offered in online modalities

Professional Development
Both full-time faculty members (Philippe Andrade, Tim Murphy) continue to engage in professional develement activities which include, but are not limited to the below.
- Online Teaching Certification

- Curriculum training

- Keeping current with discipline research and literature

- Accessiblity training

SAC Focused: Guided Pathways and Equity & Vision Goals

What improvements to "Ensure Learning" have been made within your program?
- The Political Science Department currently has one of the fastest transfer rates at SAC**

** A request was made to the RSCCD Research Department to obtain data demonstrating the average length of time for transfer among Political Science majors in comparison to other majors. Despite multiple requests, the RSCCD Research Department did not respond to the requests.

Capstone Program Review

Are there areas of disproportionate impact? What may be contributing to these distributions? What could you do differently to reduce disproportionate impact?

- The demographic breakdown of political science students is generally representative of the SAC student population. With the exception of a slight over-representation of Latino students, all other demographic groups appear to be proportionally represented within the program. Given that POLT 101 comprises a large majority of the department's course offerings and that all transfer students must complete POLT 101, it is expected that the department's student population be demographically proportional to the campus at large. Any demographic inconsistencies with the general SAC population can likely be explained by student goals being varied by demographic group.

- Student Performance
  As mentioned earlier, the program's greatest strength is in its high retention and success rates. Political science courses maintained a retention rate of 95%, and a success rate of 78% (across all courses and semesters 2021-2023) The greatest challenge to the department is increasing the success rates within 200-level courses. Given that Latino students comprise the largest subgroup at SAC (67%), the 78% success rate among all political science courses and semesters (a 5% improvement from the previous capstone review) is noteworthy. In addition, success rates for Asian Americans and Whites were 83% and 89%, respectively. Retention & success rates among BoG students are also consistent with departmental averages. The 59% success rate among African Americans deserves particular attention.

Proposed Remedies:

- Seek out students for additional help/tutoring in the Learning Center

- Basic Skills workshops focusing on study techniques, note taking, and time management.

Summary/Conclusion

Summary/Conclusion

- College-wide retention rates are 89.5%, the Political Science Department's retention rates are 90.75%.

- College-wide success rates are 77%, the Political Science Department's success rates are 74%.

- Without getting into various specific courses and demographic groups; success and retention rates by demographic group are consistent with college-wide rates. The only notable exception is that Latino success rates among Political Science courses are higher than the college average.

- Using the data provided by the Data Enrollment Management Report; FTES trend lines within Political Science courses are consistent with college-wide trends.

- Political Science retention rates are improving.

- Political Science success rates are improving.

- FTES has has rebounded from 2021-22 low (but consistent with college-wide trends), but remains below pre-COVID levels.

- The greatest current challenge to the department is increasing success rates among 200-level students, as well as increasing the number of Political Science AAT degree completions.

X. Action Plan
- Goal: 95% Retention Rates Across Department

Capstone Program Review

- Objective: Improve Retention Rates

- Timeframe: 4 years

- Responsible Party(ies): All department faculty

- Resource Implications:

- Individually contact struggling/absent students

- Incorporate more basic skills strategies into course material.

- Goal: 80% Success Rates Across Department

- Objective: Improve Success Rates

- Time frame: 4 years

- Responsible Party(ies): All department faculty

- Resource Implications:

- Individually contact struggling/absent students

- Incorporate more basic skills strategies into course material.

- Goal: Increase ADT Degrees Awarded

- Objective: Increase the number of Political Science transfer students

- Time frame: 4 years

- Responsible Party(ies): All department faculty

- Resource Implications:

- Strategies:

1. Pathways

1. Individual counseling

1. Department Advertising