

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

2004 Assessment Plan

University Mission Statement

In 1991, the Kansas Board of Regents approved the following mission statement for Wichita State University:

Wichita State University is committed to providing comprehensive educational opportunities in an urban setting. Through teaching, scholarship, and public service, the University seeks to equip both students and the larger community with the educational and cultural tools they need to thrive in a complex world, and to achieve both individual responsibility in their own lives and effective citizenship in the local, national, and global community.

High quality teaching and learning are fundamental goals in all undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs. Building on a strong tradition in the arts and sciences, the University offers programs in business, education, engineering, fine arts, and health professions, as well as in the liberal arts and sciences. Wichita State has 113 degree programs that range from the associate to the doctoral level; non-degree programs are designed to meet the specialized educational and training needs in service. This activity is a high priority in Wichita State University.

Public and community service activities seek to foster the cultural, economic, and social development of a diverse metropolitan community and of the state of Kansas. The University's service constituency includes artistic and cultural agencies, business and industry, and community, educational, governmental, health, and labor organizations.

Wichita State University pursues its mission utilizing the human diversity of Wichita, the state's largest metropolitan community, and its many cultural, economic, and social resources. The University faculty and professional staff are committed to the highest ideals of teaching, scholarship, and public service, as the University strives to be a comprehensive, metropolitan university of national stature.

Mission of Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The mission of Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is to cultivate intellectual

diverse disciplines. A liberal arts and sciences education develops transferable analytical skills—the capacity to gather and interpret information, think critically, and communicate effectively—and stimulates a lifelong love of learning that enriches graduates and their communities.

Mission of the Department of Political Science

The Department of Political Science supports both the mission of the University and the mission of Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences through teaching, research, and service in order to help students become more effective citizens in acquiring an understanding of local, national, and global matters.

The purpose of the Department of Political Science is to stimulate intellectual curiosity about the discipline of political science and to encourage students to develop critical and analytical skills about different aspects of the political world. Specifically, the Political Science Department builds on a core curriculum that is determined by the University and Fairmount

the professor chosen by the student to be the advisor for the paper, will read and evaluate each Senior Seminar paper. The rank-and-file members of the department will advise the chairperson of the department on matters of policies and procedures in assessing the educational outcomes of students.

Program Goals and Objectives

GOAL I—Students will acquire substantive knowledge of American politics, comparative politics, international politics, and political theory.

Objective No. 1--Students will demonstrate knowledge in each of the four major fields listed under Goal I.

Learner Outcome: Each student will have a “C” or better average in all introductory and other courses selected for completion of the political science major requirements.

GOAL II—Students will acquire a knowledge of the discipline of political science and an ability to think critically and analytically about the political world.

Objective No 1—Students will demonstrate their general knowledge of political science, have an acquaintance with the methods of political inquiry, and have the ability to employ key disciplinary concepts in analyzing and thinking about politics at all levels of government.

Learner Outcomes:

1. All political science majors will take the Senior Seminar course and research, write, and defend their paper in class before faculty and students. This paper will be placed in the student’s file.
2. Students will be expected to employ disciplinary research tools and concepts and to use both primary and secondary sources in preparing the paper.
3. The paper should conclude with an evaluation of the importance of the topic and its placement in the wider world of politics.

GOAL III—Students will possess a knowledge and an awareness of the workings of the political world in applied political settings.

Objective No. 1—Students will participate in activities that will provide the opportunity to learn about the world of practical politics.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Students will attend public symposia and lectures on politics.
2. Students will choose from a variety of possibilities for learning about practical politics:
 - A. Enrolling in and participating in the Model United Nations program.
 - B. Enrolling in an election workshop and learning about electoral processes.
 - C. Working in an internship program at the local, state, or national level.
 - D. Enrolling in a course on practical politics and actually carrying out a project related to the course.
 - E. Participating in the Cooperative Education progr

Submitted by Ken Ciboski, November 30, 2004.