



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN WHITEWATER

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

POLITICAL SCIENCE EDUCATION

MISSION STATEMENT

Liberal arts education, of which Political Science is a major component, is the foundation of the university. Political Science provides students with an opportunity to engage in the systematic study of political cultures, processes and institutions. Skills of critical thinking, analysis, writing, and the use of technology gained through courses in Political Science prepare students for careers, graduate study and lifelong learning. The Political Science Department fosters student personal and professional growth through its course offerings in five major subject areas: American Government, Public Policy and Administration, Political Theory, Comparative Governments and International Relations, as well as through the sponsorship of the Public Policy and Administration and International Studies programs, Legal Studies minor, and Paralegal and Lobbying Certificates. To achieve these objectives the Department promotes faculty and staff professional growth and development in teaching, research and service.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student learning outcomes (SLOs) are statements of what a student will know or be able to do when they have completed a program. They represent the knowledge and skills a program has determined are most important for students to gain from that program. The most useful SLOs are specific and measurable so the program can accurately assess the degree to which students have achieved each outcome, and they align with college and institution mission and values. Data on achievement of SLOs is used to make improvements in the program and increase student success.

Students who graduate from UW-Whitewater with a degree in Political Science will meet the following student learning outcomes:

- Acquire the analytical skills needed for evaluation of political phenomena.
- Critically evaluate political/policy information and material.
- Exhibit writing proficiency in the discipline.
- Acquire quantitative research method skills.
- Understand the American political system, including knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, Federalism, and the institutions of American Government and their operation, and understand basic constitutional rights and the role of parties and groups.
- Participate in political/policy related events.
- Learn about issues of diversity and internationalism.

In addition to the student learning outcomes for Political Science, students who major in Political Science Education will also meet the following education standards from the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC):

- **[Standard 1: Content Pedagogy]** He or she must understand the central concept and structure of discipline and it must be created in such a way that students can learn from it effectively.
- **[Standard 2: Student Development]** The teacher must be able to understand the student's ability to grasp things and must come up with the methods that can offer better personality development of the students.
- **[Standard 3: Diverse Learners]** The teacher must know that the students have different capabilities of learning and based on that must train them.
- **[Standard 4: Multiple Instructional Strategies]** The teacher must be able to understand and use a variety of instructional strategies so that they are able to solve problems, think critically and show better performance.
- **[Standard 5: Management and Motivation]** The teacher must be able to understand individuals and create a learning environment to encourage positive social interactions, self-motivation and active learning engagement.
- **[Standard 6: Technology and Communication]** The teacher should use verbal, non-verbal and media communication to impart knowledge in the students for their better understanding of the subject matter.
- **[Standard 7: Planning]** It is highly recommended that the teacher must be able to plan various things for students such as curriculum, community and students, and knowledge of subject matter.
- **[Standard 8: Assessment]** The teacher assesses the students formally or informally to evaluate the social, intellectual and physical development of the students.
- **[Standard 9: Reflective Practice: Professional Development]** The teacher is considered a reflective practitioner who can evaluate the effects of the choices and actions on others and prepares students to face the world professionally as well.
- **[Standard 10: School and community Involvement]** The last standard of [INTASC standards](#) is to develop the relationship amongst students, colleagues, society, parents and various other agencies to support learning and well-being.