Academic Program: SPA: Political Science - MA

**Contact Person for** Kimberly Cowell-Meyers  
**Assessment:**  
**Unit's Primary Department:** Government  
**Are there any changes in your assessment method?:** Yes

### Learning Outcome: Core Questions and Literature 2012-
Demonstrate understanding of the core questions and basic literatures in at least one subfield of political science.

**Outcome Year:** 2012-2013  
**Start Date:** 08/27/2012  
**Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Method</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Schedule/Cycle</th>
<th>Active</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All students will take a comprehensive exam. Students in the Applied Politics Concentration within the American Politics field must answer one question on the comprehensive exam directly related to applied politics. All students will answer two questions indicating mastery of subfield questions and literatures. We will track student performance on these different types of questions.</td>
<td>90% of students will demonstrate mastery of the relevant subfield material as scored on a rubric by a team of graduate faculty members.</td>
<td>Semi-annually</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Measure Type:** Quiz/ Exam

### Learning Outcome: Quantitative Skills 2012-
Show a fluency in reading quantitative research findings and the ability to undertake basic analysis using quantitative tools.

**Outcome Year:** 2012-2013  
**Start Date:** 08/27/2012  
**Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

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<tr>
<td>All students will complete an independent research project in GOVT 610.</td>
<td>85% of students will perform satisfactorily</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Measure Type:** Final Paper/ Final Project

### Learning Outcome: Research Design 2012-
Show familiarity with basic issues of research design.

**Outcome Year:** 2012-2013  
**Start Date:** 08/27/2012  
**Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

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<td>In Govt 650 students will produce a study design for an independent research project to be completed the following semester in GOVT 610.</td>
<td>85% of students will perform this task satisfactorily</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Measure Type:** Final Paper/ Final Project
Learning Outcome: Application to Actual Politics 2012-

Apply political science theories to real world problems.

Outcome Year: 2012-2013
Start Date: 08/27/2012
Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

| Assessment Plan |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----|
| Assessment Method | Target | Schedule/Cycle | Active |
| All students will take a comprehensive exam. Students in the Applied Politics Concentration within the American Politics field must answer one question on the comprehensive exam directly related to applied politics and all students will answer one question that requires application of theoretical knowledge to actual politics. We will track student performance on these different types of questions. | 90% of students will demonstrate mastery on the application questions. | Semi-annually | Yes |

Measure Type:
Quiz/ Exam

Learning Outcome: Student Satisfaction 2012-

Students will report satisfaction with their academic program.

Outcome Year: 2012-2013
Start Date: 09/01/2012
Outcome Status: Active Program Outcome

| Assessment Plan |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----|
| Assessment Method | Target | Schedule/Cycle | Active |
| Students will report their degree of satisfaction with their academic program, their experience of AU and their pride in being a graduate of AU on the Graduate Census. | 90% of students will report that they agree or strongly agree with the three statements on satisfaction with their program, their overall experience and their pride in graduating from AU. | OIR conducts this survey annually (?) | Yes |

Measure Type:
Survey

Learning Outcome: Analysis (2010-2012)

Analyze political institutions, behavior and theory within the fields of American and Comparative Politics.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011
Start Date: 06/30/2010
Outcome Status: Archived Program Outcome

| Assessment Plan |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----|
| Assessment Method | Target | Schedule/Cycle | Active |
| A comprehensive examination taken in either the field of American Politics or Comparative Politics. Students in the Applied Politics Concentration within the American Politics field must answer one question on the comprehensive exam directly related to applied politics. | 85% of students successfully meet the outcome. | Data will be collected at the end of each semester in which a comprehensive exam is given. (Because some students complete the M.A. in 15 months, and others in 2 years, sometimes a comprehensive exam is given in the fall semester, as well as in the spring semester). Approximately six faculty members read the comprehensive exams in American politics, and two faculty members read the | Yes |

Measure Type:
Quiz/ Exam
### Assessment Plan

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<td>A comprehensive examination taken in either the field of American Politics or Comparative Politics. Students in the Applied Politics Concentration within the American Politics field must answer one question on the comprehensive exam directly related to applied politics.**</td>
<td>85% of students successfully meet the outcome.</td>
<td>Data will be collected at the end of each semester in which a comprehensive exam is given. (Because some students complete the M.A. in 15 months, and others in 2 years, sometimes a comprehensive exam is given in the fall semester, as well as in the spring semester). Approximately six faculty members read the comprehensive exams in American politics, and two faculty members read the comprehensive exams in comparative politics. The exams are read by faculty who teach in the M.A. program. Data will be collected at the end of each semester in which a comprehensive exam is given.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
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**Measure Type:** Quiz/ Exam

### Indirect Measure:
Faculty meeting. Faculty will discuss strengths and weaknesses at the meeting.

**Measure Type:** Other

### Learning Outcome: Synthesis (2010-2012)
Demonstrate skill in synthesizing existing literature and theory in the fields of American and Comparative Politics.

**Outcome Year:** 2010-2011
**Start Date:** 06/30/2010
**Outcome Status:** Archived Program Outcome
Other

Assessment Plan

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A comprehensive examination taken in either the field of American Politics or Comparative Politics. Students in the Applied Politics Concentration within the American Politics field must answer one question on the comprehensive exam directly related to applied politics.

**Measure Type:** Quiz/ Exam

**Target:** 85% of students successfully meet the outcome.

**Schedule/Cycle:** Data will be collected at the end of each semester in which a comprehensive exam is given. (Because some students complete the M.A. in 15 months, and others in 2 years, sometimes a comprehensive exam is given in the fall semester, as well as in the spring semester). Approximately six faculty members read the comprehensive exams in American politics, and two faculty members read the comprehensive exams in comparative politics. The exams are read by faculty who teach in the M.A. program. Data will be collected at the end of each semester in which a comprehensive exam is given.

**Active:** Yes

Indirect Measure:
Faculty meeting. Faculty will discuss strengths and weaknesses at the meeting.

**Measure Type:** Other

**Target:** No target identified.

**Schedule/Cycle:** The Government Department Faculty will meet once every year to discuss the progress of students in their ability to meet the learning objectives established each year for the M.A. in Political Science. The annual meeting will provide the faculty with the opportunity to discuss the overall graduate curriculum, and to discuss potential changes to the curriculum.

**Active:** Yes

Learning Outcome: Research Methodologies (2010-2012)

Prepare a research design and use political science methodologies. As part of the comprehensive examination students are asked one question that requires them to develop a research question, create a research design to test that question, and describe the methodology or methodologies they would use to construct the research.

**Outcome Year:** 2010-2011

**Start Date:** 06/30/2010

**Outcome Status:** Archived Program Outcome

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The annual meeting will provide the faculty with the opportunity to discuss the overall graduate curriculum, and to discuss potential changes to the curriculum.

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The Government Department Faculty will meet once every year to discuss the progress of students in their ability to meet the learning objectives established each year for the M.A. in Political Science. The annual meeting will provide the faculty with the opportunity to discuss the overall graduate curriculum, and to discuss potential changes to the curriculum.