

Program Assessment Plan

American University

Academic Program: SIS: International Affairs: Comparative Regional Studies - MA

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Learning Outcome: Schools of Thought

Describe and distinguish among the major schools of thought in international relations and comparative politics, and be able to apply these theories to explain international, regional, and country specific phenomena.

Outcome Year: 2009-2010
2010-2011
2011-2012

Start Date: 06/30/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Direct Measure--Substantial Research Papers (SRP). Faculty members will supervise the SRP research using a rubric or specific criteria. Evaluations will be reported under: 1) distinction 2) pass 3) fail Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project	80% to attain "pass with minor revisions"	Annual--SRP guidelines to be reviewed based on results. Review to be conducted by an SRP Committee, in consultation with student representatives.	Yes
Direct Measure--Oral Exam. Administered based on guidelines developed by faculty. Evaluation reported under the following categories--Distinction, Pass, Fail. Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam	80% must attain "Pass."	Every three years--review by faculty of Oral exam process; Focus Group Meeting with students to assess effectiveness every three years.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Research Projects

Develop and execute research projects that integrate theory and empirics, and develop analytical skills.

Outcome Year: 2009-2010
2010-2011
2011-2012

Start Date: 06/30/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Direct Measure--Substantial Research Papers (SRP). Faculty members will supervise the SRP research using a rubric or specific criteria. Evaluations will be reported under: 1) distinction 2) pass 3) fail Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project	80% to attain "pass with minor revisions"	Annual--SRP guidelines to be reviewed based on results. Review to be conducted by an SRP Committee, in consultation with student representatives.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Related Field

Attain in-depth substantive knowledge in a "related field."

Outcome Year: 2009-2010
 2010-2011
 2011-2012

Start Date: 06/30/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Direct Measure--Substantial Research Papers (SRP). Faculty members will supervise the SRP research using a rubric or specific criteria. Evaluations will be reported under: 1) distinction 2) pass 3) fail Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project	80% to attain "pass with minor revisions"	Annual--SRP guidelines to be reviewed based on results. Review to be conducted by an SRP Committee, in consultation with student representatives.	Yes
Oral Comprehensive Exam; SRP Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam	80% must be evaluated as "satisfactory."	Every three years. Faculty review; Focus Group Meetings with students.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Convey Knowledge

Develop their oral and analytical skills so they can clearly and effectively convey their knowledge.

Outcome Year: 2009-2010
 2010-2011
 2011-2012

Start Date: 06/30/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Learning Outcome: Foreign Language

Speak, write, and read a foreign language at a level that allows research and effective communication.

Outcome Year: 2009-2010
 2010-2011
 2011-2012

Start Date: 06/30/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Test by AU's Language Resource Center; test by accredited language instructor; prior degree in language. Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam	100% certified as proficient.	Every three years--faculty review and consultation with Language Resource Center.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Professional Skills

Develop the skills to function effectively in a professional and/or academic environment consistent with the student's knowledge and training.

Outcome Year: 2009-2010
 2010-2011
 2011-2012

Start Date: 06/30/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan

Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Internship. Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project	80% must receive positive evaluation from internship sponsor. Positive means a score of 3 and above in a range from 1-5.	Every four years--Faculty consultation with SIS Internship Office and CRS; Focus Group Meeting with students every two years.	Yes