

Program Assessment Plan
 American University
 Academic Program: SPA: Political Science - MA

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Learning Outcome: Analysis

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: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	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. Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam	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 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.	Yes
Indirect Measure: Faculty meeting. Faculty will discuss strengths and weaknesses at the meeting. Measure Type: Other	No target identified.	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.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Synthesis

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

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Assessment Plan

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Learning Outcome: Research Methodologies

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.

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