



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, D C

Political Science (M.A.)

Department Website: <http://www.american.edu/spa/gov/>

1. Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Analyze political institutions, behavior and theory within the fields of American and Comparative Politics.
2. Demonstrate skill in synthesizing existing literature and theory in the fields of American and Comparative Politics.
3. Prepare a research design and use basic 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.

2. Assessment Plan

| Measures | Target | Learning Outcomes | Cycle and Reviewers |
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| <p>Direct Measure : 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.</p> | <p>The learning outcomes will have been met if 85% of students successfully meet the three learning outcomes.</p> | <p>1., 2., 3.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>Indirect Measure Faculty meeting</p> | <p>Faculty will discuss strengths and weaknesses at the meeting.</p> | <p>1., 2., 3.</p> | <p>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.)</p> |