

Department/Unit Political Science College/School College of Liberal Arts
 Program College of Liberal Arts

Table 4.1 Outcomes Assessment Implementation Summary

Complete a separate table for each degree and certificate program (will be updated through 2009-10 for Accred.)

	Academic Year		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-2010
Assessment information collected	<p><i>We collected Student Exit Surveys and we reviewed the senior theses.</i></p> <p><i>We held a departmental meeting at the end of the year to discuss our majors' performance in general.</i></p> <p><i>Four exit surveys were completed.</i></p>	<p><i>We collected Student Exit Surveys and we reviewed the senior theses.</i></p> <p><i>We held a departmental meeting at the end of the year to discuss our majors' performance in general.</i></p> <p><i>Nine Senior Theses were reviewed.</i></p> <p><i>Three exit surveys were completed.</i></p>	<p><i>We collected Student Exit Surveys and submitted senior theses.</i></p> <p><i>The senior theses will be reviewed during the 2010-2011 academic year.</i></p>
Conclusions drawn from the information collected above	<p><i>Comments submitted through the exit survey were positive about the faculty and courses offered, but students wanted a broader array of courses to be offered.</i></p>	<p>The students in all three surveys noted faculty as a major strength in the department. Students continue to want more courses offered, but we are a small department for the size of the university and with five faculty our conclusion is that we need one or two more full time Political Science faculty members whose primary workload emphasis is teaching.</p>	<p>Due to administrative staffing changes in the political science department we have yet to review student exit surveys, this will be done during the 2010-2011 academic year.</p>

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Curricular changes resulting from conclusions drawn above	<p><i>In Fall 2008 we began a new system that let the capstone project be either research oriented (PS499) or the completion of an internship (PS475) that also had reading and writing requirements.</i></p> <p><i>We made these curricular changes (1) to keep current with the trend towards "hands-on" and service oriented learning in academics (2) in response to our majors who wanted to be able to pursue their own political science interests more closely (3) in realization that we needed a two-track option for students to better meet their post-graduation needs.</i></p>	<p><i>The Exit survey was heavily edited/rewritten for its administration this year. However, that did not enhance response rate. We now have a threefold plan to increase our exit mechanism for collecting information. We are designing three separate final survey tools. One to fit each potential capstone experience (1) Thesis PS499 (2) Service Learning PS475 (3) Legislative Internship in Juneau. We will also administer these surveys prior to the issuance of a grade for each course rather than wait until the student has actually graduated. Nearly all of our students complete these capstones in their final semester so we believe that with the appropriate survey language we can capture the vial information needed.</i></p>	<p>None as of yet.</p>
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