



Final Annual Report

Tennessee Tech University

President

Provost

College of Arts and Sciences

Sociology and Political Science

Political Science BS



Political Science Mission

Department/Unit Contact: James Raymondo

Mission/Vision/Goal Statement

I. Department Mission:

The mission statement of the Department of Sociology and Political Science reflects the wide range of academic disciplines represented in the department, and our commitment to an education that is both grounded in the traditions of the liberal arts and reflecting the needs of an increasingly technological society.

The Department of Sociology and Political Science has the primary mission of offering strong academic programs in sociology, social work, philosophy, political science, criminal justice, and anthropology. We provide students with a quality liberal arts education that prepares them for a rapidly changing world and a variety of work environments and post-graduate educational possibilities. Students are educated not only to master a diverse body of knowledge but also how to think critically, analyze data, and clearly communicate what they know and discover. Recognizing that we live in an increasingly technological and diverse world, we seek to incorporate technological expertise and appreciation of human diversity into our courses. The department also strives to serve the wider university, the Upper Cumberland region, and the nation through research and public service.



Program Goal 1

Define Goal

Program Goal 1: Increase enrollment in the program by 10% over the next five years.



Intended Outcomes / Objectives

Program Goal 2

Define Goal

Program Goal 2: The Department of Sociology and Political Science will be staffed with a faculty committed to excellence in the areas of: teaching; research; and, service.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

Program Goal 3

Define Goal

Program Goal 3: To better prepare students for real world experience the program will increase the percentage of majors pursuing internships to at least 20% by 2018.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

Student Learning Outcome 1

Define Goal

Student Learning Outcome 1: Majors in Political Science will understand fundamental issues in American Government, as reflected by performance equal to or above the national average on the ETS Major Field Exam Subscore 1: United States Government and Politics.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

Student Learning Outcome 2

Define Goal

Student Learning Outcome 2: Majors in Political Science will understand fundamental issues in International Relations, as reflected by performance equal to or above the national average on the ETS Major Field Exam Subscore 3: International Relations.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives



Student Learning Outcome 3

Define Goal

Student Learning Outcome 3: Majors in Political Science will learn to think critically, as reflected by responses equal to or above the national average on enrolled student survey items related to Critical Thinking and on the relevant sections of the ETS Major Field Exam
Assessment Indicator: Analytical and Critical Thinking.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

Learning Outcome 1 Assessment Tool ETS Exam Subscore 1

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Student Learning Outcome 1

Type of Tool: Exit Exam

Rationale

ETS major field examination (Administered each fall and spring semester) - Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, & 3.

Majors in political science with senior classification will take the ETS major field examination in political science.

For the purposes of the assessment of **understanding fundamental issues in American Government**, performance equal to or above the national mean on the ETS Major Field Exam Subscore 1 United States Government and Politics is operationalized as TTU students having a mean score above or equal to the national mean, or a score no lower than one standard deviation below the national mean.

Frequency of Assessment: Annual

Learning Outcome 2 Assessment Tool ETS Exam Subscore 3

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Student Learning Outcome 2

Type of Tool: Exit Exam

Rationale

ETS major field examination (Administered each fall and spring semester) - Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, & 3. Majors in political science with senior classification will take the ETS major field examination in political science.

For the purposes of the assessment of **understanding fundamental issues in International Relations**, performance equal to or above the national mean on the ETS Major Field Exam Subscore 3 International Relations is operationalized as TTU students having a mean score above or equal to the national mean, or a score no lower



than one standard deviation below the national mean.

Frequency of Assessment: Annual



Learning Outcome 3 Assessment Tool ETS/IDEA Eval.

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Student Learning Outcome 3

Type of Tool: Exit Exam, Survey

Rationale

IDEA Student Evaluation results – Student Learning Outcome 3.

The chairperson of the department will monitor the percent of political science instructors identifying Critical Thinking as a key course objective, and the percent of students who report citing progress on Critical Thinking in the related course.

For the purposes of the assessment of **learning to think critically**, performance equal to or above the national mean on the ETS Major Field Exam Assessment Indicator: Analytical and Critical Thinking is operationalized as TTU students having a mean score above or equal to the national mean, or a score no lower than one standard deviation below the national mean. As an additional indirect means of assessment the chairperson of the department will monitor percent of instructors selecting Critical Thinking as a Key Course Objective, and the percent of students citing Progress on Critical Thinking from the IDEA Student Evaluation Results. The goals are for at least 50% of the faculty to select Critical Thinking as a key objective, and at least 50% of the students citing progress on Critical Thinking.

Frequency of Assessment: Annual



Program Goal 1 Assessment Tool

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Program Goal 1

Type of Tool: Other

Rationale

Monitor the number of majors each year - Program Goal 1: The chairperson of the department will monitor the number of majors each year. Results are included in the Department's Annual Report, and the Institutional Effectiveness Report.

The chairperson of the department will **Monitor the number of majors each year** in political science. The results are included in the Department's Annual Report to the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and included in the Department's annual Institutional Effectiveness Report for the political science major.

Frequency of Assessment: Annual



Program Goal 2 Assessment Tool

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Program Goal 2

Type of Tool: Other

Rationale

Faculty Annual Report and Evaluation Process (Conducted annually in the spring semester) – Program Goal 2: Each faculty member will submit an annual report to the chairperson of the department discussing their efforts for the previous calendar year in the areas of teaching, research, and service. The report will address the following indicators. Teaching: number of courses taught including on-campus courses; on-line courses; and independent studies; enrollment in each course; and, appropriate teaching evaluations. Research: publications; grants funded or continuing; presentations at international, national, regional, or state professional organizations; manuscripts submitted for publication; grant applications submitted; and, research in progress. Service: service activities for the department, college, university, and community. The annual report is the basis for the **Faculty Annual Evaluation**.

Each individual faculty member's progress in their **Faculty Annual Report** will be discussed with the chair, and an overall summary of the department's progress will be included in an annual report from the chair to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. **Committed to Excellence** is measured by at least 75% of the faculty receiving a rating of "Outstanding" or, "High" (the two highest ratings on the five point scale used in the evaluations) on their annual faculty evaluation.

Frequency of Assessment: Annual

Program Goal 3 Assessment Tool

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Program Goal 3

Type of Tool: Other

Rationale

Monitor number of internships taken by majors – Program Goal 3:

The coordinator of the political science major will monitor the number of students taking internships each year and report the results to the department chairperson.

To better prepare students for real world experience the coordinator of the political science major will **Monitor the number of internships taken by majors**. The results are reported to the department chairperson and included in the Department's annual Institutional Effectiveness Report for the political science major.

Frequency of Assessment: Annual

Program Goal 1 Results

Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Program Goal 1

Results



Data on **Program Goal 1** show that increasing the enrollment by 10% has been exceeded. Data for the change in the number of majors with year to year percent change, and cumulative percent change using the 2005 enrollment of 71 majors as a base are presented below. It is worth noting that while our target rate has been met, the enrollment has dropped from the high of 98 majors in 2009 and has only recently begun to show slight growth. The drop is a combination of demographic factors (a declining size in the high school senior cohort for the last several years) and political factors (a State initiative to provide free access to the community college program which has reduced enrollments at most State 4-yr universities).

Program	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Political Science Majors	88	98	95	95	91	89	78	79	79
Percent Change	0%	11%	-3%						
Cumulative % Change	0%	-4.2%	-2.2%	12.4%	1.3%	0.0%			
	25%	38%	34%	34%	29.8%	25.3%	9.9%	11.3%	11.3%

(Percentages are based on 2005 base enrollment of 71 majors)

Attachments

No items to display.



Program Goal 2 Results

Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Program Goal 2

Results

Data on **Program Goal 2** the **Faculty Annual Reports** dealing with the teaching, research and service activities of the faculty are provided to the department chair by each faculty member in the form of their annual progress report. The faculty progress reports provide the basis for much of the department's annual report submitted to the Dean of Arts and Sciences and are the basis of the faculty member's annual evaluation. **Committed to Excellence** is measured by at least 75% of the faculty receiving a rating of "Outstanding" or "High" (the two highest ratings on the five point scale used in the evaluations) on their annual faculty evaluation. We have consistently met or exceeded our target since the 2011 reporting period.



Percent of Faculty Rated

<u>Year</u>	<u>Outstanding or High</u>
Calendar Year 2016	100% (4 of 4)
Calendar Year 2015	100% (4 of 4)
Calendar Year 2014	100% (4 of 4)
Calendar Year 2013	100% (4 of 4)
Calendar Year 2012	100% (3 of 3)
Calendar Year 2011	100% (3 of 3)
Calendar Year 2010	67% (2 of 3)

Attachments

No items to display.



Program Goal 3 Results

Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Program Goal 3

Results

Data on **Program Goal 3** concerns increasing the number of students participating in the internship program. Internships are available locally, in Nashville including with the State of Tennessee Legislature, and in Washington D.C. through TTU's participation with the Washington Center Program (a clearing house offering students an opportunity to internship in government, corporate, and other agencies in the Washington D.C., Virginia, and Maryland area). In 2005 only 5% of the majors were participating in the internship program, and the goal was set to increase participation to 20% of the majors. Over the past several years we have made good progress on this goal with increased participation for the last three years. For the latest two reporting periods (2015 and 2016) our participation rate has exceeded 20% and the 2016 rate of 31.6% is the highest in the recent past. While the 2016 rate is very high it is worth noting that internship participation in political science varies with the election cycle and that might have played a role.

POLS Students Participating in Internship Program

2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016



Number of Students Participating	20	15	16	11	14	16	25
Political Science Majors	95	95	91	89	78	79	79
Percent Participating	21%	15.8%	17.6%	12.4%	17.9%	20.3%	31.6%

Dates reflect start of the academic year (2010 is the 2010-11 academic year).

Attachments

No items to display.



Student Learning Outcome 1 Results

Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Student Learning Outcome 1

Results

In fall 2016 political science majors at Tennessee Tech have scored within one standard deviation from the national mean which is our target. In several of the recent semesters (fall 2013, spring 2014, and fall 2015) our students scored above the national mean. Scores for the spring 2016 semester were slightly over one standard deviation below the national mean, but the data for fall 2016 indicate that we are in line with our target range.

Political science majors at Tennessee Tech have not scored significantly below the national mean on Subscore 1 American Government in 11 of the last 11 semesters, and scored significantly above the national mean in spring 2014, fall 2013, and spring 2012.

Appendix 1. Political Science Major Field Test Results

Political Science Major Field Test Results

Term	Fall 2016		Spring 2017	
Major Field Exam	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data



Mean	147	152.2
S.D.	13	13.8
N	4	6,691

Subscore 1: Government and Politics

	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	49	52.2		
S.D.	16	13.8		

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Term	Fall 2015		Spring 2016	
Major Field Exam	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data



Mean	143	152.3	139	152.2
S.D.	16	13.8	12	13.8
N	10	5,405	8	5,405

Subscore 1: Government and Politics

	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	44	52.2	42	52.2
S.D.	16	13.7	10	13.7

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Term	Fall 2014		Spring 2015	
Major Field Exam	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data



Mean	147	152.3	140	152.2
S.D.	12	13.8	18	13.8
N	9	4,106	9	4,106

Subscore 1: Government and Politics

	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	50	52.3	42	52.3
S.D.	10	13.8	20	13.8

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Term	Fall 2013	Spring 2014
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Major Field Exam	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
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Mean	155	152.3	157	152.3
S.D.	10	14	11	14
N	11	2,620	9	2,620

Subscore 1: Government and Politics

	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	57	52.5	61	52.5
S.D.	12	13.9	10	13.9

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.



Term	Fall 2012		Spring 2013	
	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Major Field Exam				
Mean	146	152.3	144	152.3
S.D.	9	13.9	11	13.9
N	8	1,032	13	1,032

Subscore 1: Government and Politics

	Fall 2012		Spring 2013	
	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	48	52.2	48	52.2
S.D.	10	14	12	14

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Political Science Major Field Test Results

Term	Fall 2011		Spring 2012	
	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data



Major Field Exam	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	146	151.6	150	151.6
S.D.	15	14.3	11	14.2
N	7	9,401	18	9,401

Subscore 1: Government and Politics

	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	48	50.9	52	50.9
S.D.	10	14.2	11	14.2

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Attachments

No items to display.



Student Learning Outcome 2 Results

Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Student Learning Outcome 2

Results

Political science majors at Tennessee Tech have not scored significantly below the national mean on Subscore 3 International Relations in 8 of the last 9 semesters; and scored above



the national mean in spring 2014 and fall 2013. In spring 2016 scores on sub-score 3, international relations, were slightly below the national mean by more than one standard deviation; however, the latest data from fall 2016 shows an improvement.

Appendix 1. Political Science Major Field Test Results

Political Science Major Field Test Results

Term	Fall 2016		Spring 2017	
	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Major Field Exam				
Mean	147	152.2		
S.D.	13	13.8		
N	4	6,691		

Subscore 3: International Relations

	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	46	52.2		
S.D.	12	13.7		

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Term	Fall 2015		Spring 2016	
	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Major Field Exam				



Mean	143	152.2	<i>139</i>	152.2
S.D.	16	13.8	12	13.8
N	16	5,405	8	5,405

Subscore 3: International Relations

	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	44	52.2	<i>37</i>	52.2
S.D.	16	13.6	13	13.6

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Term	Fall 2014		Spring 2015	
	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Major Field Exam				
Mean	147	152.2	140	152.2
S.D.	12	13.8	18	13.8
N	9	4,106	9	4,106

Subscore 3: International Relations

	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	48	52.2	<i>42</i>	52.2
S.D.	13	13.7	14	13.7

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.



Term	Fall 2013		Spring 2014	
	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Major Field Exam				
Mean	155	152.3	157	152.3
S.D.	10	14	11	14
N	11	2,620	9	2,620

Subscore 3: International Relations

	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	53	52.3	56	52.3
S.D.	8	13.7	17	13.7

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Term	Fall 2012		Spring 2013	
	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Major Field Exam				
Mean	146	152.3	144	152.3



S.D.	9	13.9	11	13.9
N	8	1,032	13	1,032

Subscore 3: International Relations

	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	45	52.6	42	52.6
S.D.	10	13.8	9	13.8

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Political Science Major Field Test Results

Term	Fall 2011		Spring 2012	
Major Field Exam	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	146	151.6	150	151.6
S.D.	15	14.3	11	14.2
N	7	9,401	18	9,401



Subscore 3: International Relations

	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	46	52.1	50	52.1
S.D.	16	15.1	13	15.1

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Attachments

No items to display.



Student Learning Outcome 3 Results

Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Student Learning Outcome 3

Results

Political science majors have not scored significantly below the national mean on the Critical Thinking assessment indicator in 6 of the last 6 semesters; and, they have scored above the national mean spring 2014, fall 2013, spring 2013, and spring 2012.

An additional source of data to assess critical thinking is found in the analysis of the department's IDEA Student Evaluation results. The table below provides data on the percent of political science instructors identifying Critical Thinking as a key course objective, and the percent of students who report citing progress on Critical Thinking in the related course.

IDEA Student Evaluation Data

Percent of Instructors Selecting Critical Thinking as a Key Course Objective, and

Percent of Students Citing Progress on Critical Thinking



Year	Percent of Instructors	Percent of Students
	Selecting as Key Obj.	Citing Progress
2016	63.6	58.2
2015	100.0	54.3
2014	100.0	56.4
2013	44.4	58.3
2012	88.9	57.4
2011	100.0	57.8
2010	66.6	52.2
2009	100.0	55.5
2008	100.0	46.4

Overall the data indicate strong support for emphasizing critical thinking as a course objective by political science faculty, and improvement among students reporting progress in critical thinking skills in the political science classes. The instructor percentages are consistently above the 50% target with the exception of 2013, and the percent of students citing progress is above the 50% target each year since 2009. In the most recent period (fall 2016) the percentage of faculty selecting critical thinking as a key objective fell from the level of recent years but it remains above the 50% target level. The percentage of students citing progress on critical thinking increased in fall 2016, and remains above the 50% target.

Political Science Major Field Test Results

Term

Fall 2015

Spring 2016



	TTU			National Data			TTU			National Data		
	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.
Analytical & Crit. Thinking	48	59.3	8.1	46	59.3	8.1						
Methodology	<i>30</i>	45.1	9.1	41	45.1	9.1						
Political Thought	45	53.0	9.8	<i>37</i>	53.0	9.8						

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Term	Fall 2014			Spring 2015		
Assessment Indicators (Mean Percent Correct)	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.

(Scale for Assessment Indicators was changed after 2011)

	TTU			National Data			TTU			National Data		
	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.
Analytical & Crit. Thinking	58	59.4	8.7	48	52.2	8.7						
Methodology	<i>35</i>	44.7	9.4	46	52.4	9.4						
Political Thought	<i>42</i>	53.9	11.0	<i>40</i>	52.6	11.0						



TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Term Fall 2013 Spring 2014

Assessment Indicators (Mean Percent Correct)

(Scale for Assessment Indicators was changed after 2011)

	TTU			4TTU		
	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.
Analytical & Crit. Thinking	61	59.4	8.7	67	52.2	8.7
Methodology	43	44.7	9.4	<i>35</i>	52.4	9.4
Political Thought	54	53.9	11.0	55	52.6	11.0

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.



Term	Fall 2012			Spring 2013		
Assessment Indicators (Mean Percent Correct)						
(Scale for Assessment Indicators was changed after 2011)						
	TTU	National Data		TTU	National Data	
	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.
Analytical & Crit. Thinking	55	59.4	8.7	53	52.2	8.7
Methodology	43	44.7	9.4	<i>36</i>	52.4	9.4
Political Thought	50	53.9	11.0	43	52.6	11.0

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.



Political Science Major Field Test Results

Term	Fall 2011			Spring 2012		
Assessment Indicators (Mean Percent Correct)	TTU	National Data		TTU	National Data	
(Scale for Assessment Indicators was changed after 2011)	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.
Analytical & Crit. Thinking	55	59.4	8.7	72	59.4	8.7
Methodology	43	44.7	9.4	57	44.7	9.4
Political Thought	50	53.9	11.0	44	53.9	11.0

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Attachments

No items to display.