

## **Political Science: 2018-2019**

### **Definition of Unit**

#### **Providing Department:**

Political Science BS

#### **Department/Unit Contact:**

Loretta Maxwell

#### **Mission/Vision Statement:**

Within the context of the University's mission, the mission of the Department is to 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.

The Department of Sociology and Political Science has the primary mission of offering strong academic programs in sociology, criminology and criminal justice, social work and political science. It provides students with a quality liberal arts education that prepares them for a rapidly changing world and a variety of work environments and postgraduate educational possibilities. Students are educated to not only master a diverse body of knowledge but also 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.

Based on the mission to 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, the Sociology program has identified two Program Goals and five student Learning Outcomes. These provide our students with a well-rounded education through fostering skills such as critical thinking, data analysis, effective communication and the ability to

adapt to changing work environments within a variety of potential occupations. The two Program Goals and five student-Learning Outcomes also prepare our students to be more competitive on the job market or in graduate or law school after graduation.

## **Program Goal 1: Sufficient Student Population**

### **Define Goal:**

Program Goal 1: The Program of Political Science will have a sufficient number of students to sustain a strong educational program.

### **Intended Outcomes / Objectives:**

The Program will be involved in recruitment initiatives such as participation in Majors' Fairs faculty engagement through Majors Fairs and Scholarship support.

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

### **Assessment: Program Goal 1 - Sufficient Student Population**

#### **Frequency of Assessment:**

Annually

#### **Rationale:**

Tracking sheet of the number of political science majors

Tracking the number recruitment activities

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

### **Results: Program Goal 1 - Sufficient Student Population**

#### **Results:**

Year	Total Political Science (Includes Concentrations)	Political Science with Legal Studies Concentration	Political Studies with International Relations & Comparative Government Concentration (*No Longer Available)
2014	79	23	6
2015	79	31	6
2016	79	32	8
2017	94	36	11
2018	84	34	9

**Attachments:**

**Program Goal 2: Curricular and Extracurricular Opportunities**

**Define Goal:**

Students will judge that a sufficient number of curricular and co-curricular activities were offered by the program as reported by our students.

**Intended Outcomes / Objectives:**

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Assessment: Program Goal 2: Curricular and Extracurricular Opportunities**

**Frequency of Assessment:**

Annually

**Rationale:**

The annual survey of majors is delivered through Qualtrics and assesses student satisfaction with curricular and co-curricular offerings in Sociology.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Results: Program Goal 2: Curricular and Extracurricular Opportunities**

**Results:**

Please tell us how interested you are in doing the following: (N=27)

	No	Yes
Attending a Pre-Law Club meeting or supported event such as Constitution Day	52.4%	47.6%
	14	13
Participating in a Political Science competition course: Moot Court or Model UN	19.1%	80.9%
	16	11
Serving as a department or university work study	52.4%	47.6%
	19	8
Attending a Pi Sigma Alpha meeting or event	33.3%	66.7%
	17	10
Competing an internship	23.8%	76.2% <sup>8</sup>
	19	8
Participating in any service learning activities in your class (i.e. projects completed for a class that requires involvement within the community)	28.6%	71.4%
	16	11
Volunteering in the community	23.8%	76.2%
	11	16
Working with a faculty member on a research project	28.6%	71.4%
	22	5
Serving as a Teaching Assistant for a professor	42.9%	57.1%
	21	6

**Attachments:**

## **Student Learning Outcome 1: Knowledge of the Discipline**

### **Define Goal:**

**Political Science majors will develop knowledge of their discipline.**

### **Intended Outcomes / Objectives:**

Political Science majors will demonstrate knowledge of their discipline at a level comparable to the national mean on the ETS major field exam.

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

### **Assessment: Student Learning Outcome 1: Knowledge of the Discipline**

#### **Frequency of Assessment:**

Bianually

#### **Rationale:**

In the Political Science program, faculty administer the national Educational Testing Services (ETS) major field examination each fall and spring semester to all enrolled majors with senior classification. The ETS exam outlines content questions related to Comparative Government and Politics, International Relations, and United States Government and Politics.

Performance at a level above or comparable to the national mean on the ETS Major Field Examination is defined as Tech students having a mean score no lower than 1.644 standard errors below the national mean, the level at which a difference would become statistically significant at the 0.05 level. By using this standard, the department can regularly assess students' performance on Learning Outcome 1.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Results: Student Learning Outcome 1: Knowledge of the Discipline**

**Results:**

ETS Scores:

	TTU Data			National Data		
	Mean	S.D.	N	Mean	S.D.	N
Spring 2019	149.6	14.3	14	152.2	13.9	3536
Fall 2018	139	1	2	152.4	14	2268
Spring 2018	155	7	9	152.4	13.7	226.8
Fall 2017	153.2	14	7	142	8	1065
Spring 2017	147	13	19	152	13.8	6691
Fall 2016	142	9	29	148.3	12.4	4998

**Student Learning Outcome 2 : Critical Thinking Skills**

**Define Goal:**

**Majors in Political Science will develop critical thinking skills.**

**Intended Outcomes / Objectives:**

**Learning Outcome 2: Majors in Political Science will demonstrate critical thinking skills at a level comparable to the national mean.**

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Assessment: Student Learning Outcome 2 : Critical Thinking Skills**

**Frequency of Assessment:**

Biannually

**Rationale:**

In the Political Science program, faculty administer the national Educational Testing Services (ETS) major field examination each fall and spring semester to all enrolled majors with senior classification. The ETS exam measures Analytical and Critical Thinking, Methodology, and Political Thought.

Performance at a level above or comparable to the national mean on the ETS Major Field Examination is defined as Tech students having a mean score no lower than 1.644 standard errors below the national mean, the level at which a difference would become statistically significant at the 0.05 level. By using this standard, the department can regularly assess students' performance on Learning Outcome 1.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Results: Student Learning Outcome 2: Critical Thinking Skills**

**Results:**

Student Learning Outcome 2 Major Field Exam: Critical Exam Data		
Fall 2018	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	* Two student tests	
S.D.		
	*Subscores not reported when less than 5 students tested	*Subscores not reported when less than 5 students tested
Spring 2018	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	61	60.4
S.D	9	8
Fall 2017	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	53	45
S.D	13.7	19
Spring 2017	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	58	60.4
S.D	11	8
Fall 2016	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	43	47.8
S.D.	9	12
Spring 2016	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	44	48.4
S.D	13	12.6
Fall 2015	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	39	48.4
S.D.	10	12.6
Spring 2015	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	43	48.3
S.D	11	11.9
Fall 2014	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	41	48.3
S.D.	7	11.9
Spring 2014	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	47	48.4
S.D	9	11.7

## **Student Learning Outcome 3: Effective Oral and Written Communication**

### **Define Goal:**

**Learning Outcome 3: Majors in Political Science will be capable of effective oral and written communication.**

### **Intended Outcomes / Objectives:**

Students will report confidence in their abilities to write and speak clearly and effectively as measured by the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

## **Assessment: Student Learning Outcome 3: Effective Oral and Written Communication**

### **Frequency of Assessment:**

Semianually

### **Rationale:**

Political Science analyzes the results from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) in order to assess student confidence in their abilities to write and speak clearly and effectively. The results of the National Survey of Student Engagement allow us to assess how well our students perform on learning Outcome 3 by determining their capabilities in effectively using written and oral skills. These results are compared to other TTU students and to our Carnegie peer institutions. Full access to the questions are copyright and trademark protected, but the 2019 TTU College of Arts and Sciences NSSE data is linked here:

[https://www.tntech.edu/assessment/pdf/NSSE19\\_Arts\\_and\\_Humanities.pdf](https://www.tntech.edu/assessment/pdf/NSSE19_Arts_and_Humanities.pdf).



The threshold of acceptability is improvement from the freshman year to the senior year in critical thinking skills on the NSSE data, and this threshold was met. *The continuous improvement strategy for Learning Outcome 3 is that all of the full-time POLS faculty require written presentations and to retain this requirement among all full-time POLS faculty.*

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Results: Student Learning Outcome 3: Effective Oral and Written Communication**

**Results:**

**Table 5: NSSE Data: 2014 and 2016**

	2014				2016			
	Oral		Written		Oral		Written	
	Freshmen	Seniors	Freshmen	Seniors	Freshmen	Seniors	Freshmen	Seniors
TTU Sociology	2.00	3.78	3.00	3.11	2.89	3.00	2.67	3.27
TTU Total	2.50	2.80	2.60	2.80	2.60	2.90	2.70	2.80
Carnegie	2.80	3.00	2.90	3.10	2.80	3.00	2.90	3.10

**Attachments:**

**Student Learning Outcome 4: Legal Studies Concentration**

**Define Goal:**

Majors in Political Science in the Legal Studies Concentration be prepared for legal study.

**Intended Outcomes / Objectives:**

Majors in Political Science in the Legal Studies Concentration will indicate preparedness for legal study.

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

## **Assessment: Student Learning Outcome 4: Legal Studies Concentration**

### **Frequency of Assessment:**

Annually

### **Rationale:**

Qualtrics survey of graduates

Individual Exit Interviews

### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

## **Results: Student Learning Outcome 4: Legal Studies Concentration**

### **Results:**

#	Answer	%	Count
5	Strongly Agree	37.50%	6
4	Agree	25.00%	4
3	Somewhat Agree	25.00%	4
2	Somewhat Disagree	6.25%	1
1	Disagree	6.25%	1
0	Strongly Disagree	0.00%	0

### **Attachments:**