

**UNIVERSITY OF GUAM**  
**College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences**  
**Rubric for Analysis of Major Programs *Political Science***

Types of Data				Comments
1 External recognition and measures of quality of the program (list)	Statement/list adequately addresses data request	Statement/list somewhat addresses data request; requires clarification	Statement/list not provided or does not address data request	
2 All course outlines have been revised to reflect both program and course Student Learning Outcomes and assessment plan (copy of assessment plan and program SLOs)	Statement adequately addresses data request	Statement somewhat addresses data request; requires clarification	Statement does not address data request or no statement provided	
3 Centrality to mission	Statement adequately describes program's centrality to mission	Statement somewhat describes program's centrality to mission; requires clarification	Statement does not describe program's centrality to mission or no statement provided	
4 Support of strategic initiatives (which ones and how)	Statement adequately identifies and describes strategic initiatives	Statement somewhat identifies and describes strategic initiatives; requires clarification	Statement does not identify or describe strategic initiatives or no statement provided	
5 Meeting student and regional needs (evidence to support this)	Statement adequately addresses requested data with evidence	Statement somewhat addresses requested data with some evidence	Statement does not address requested data; statement lacks evidence; or no statement provided	
6 Completed program reviews with recommendations acted upon (last review and actions taken)	Statement adequately addresses data request	Statement somewhat addresses data request; requires clarification	Statement not provided or does not address data request	
Six page limit	6 pages	less than 6 pages	exceeds 6 page limit	



TO: Dean Mary L. Spencer

FROM: Michael J. Stoil, Assistant Professor  
Political Science Program

REFR: Fall 2007 Analysis of Undergraduate Programs

DATE: 17 October 2007

### 1. External recognition and measures of quality

External recognition and measures of quality of the Political Science Program at the University of Guam consist of the following:

- Results of a recently-completed triennial program review
- Achievements of students who have adopted political science as their major field of study at UoG
- Congruence of the Political Science Program's curriculum sequence with the recommendations of the 1991 Report of the American Political Science Association on "The Political Science Major in the Liberal Arts Curriculum."

1. **Triennial External Program Review.** The Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee of the University of Guam completed and submitted the most recent triennial program review of the Political Science Program during the 2007-08 academic year. The report of the Committee incorporated observations from an External Reviewer from the University of Hawaii, in addition to the comments of faculty from UoG departments outside of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. The review characterizes Political Science as a "strong program," noting that the 2005 Survey of Majors/Minors "rated the Political Science Program as either 'Outstanding' or 'Very Good'....and ratings in the 'Average' and 'Poor' responses accounted for less than one (1) percent of the responses." Additionally, the external reviewer described the work of the Political Science faculty as "exemplary...succeed[ing] in the difficult task of balancing teaching, research, and community service." Although the External Reviewer expressed concern about "the possible lack of content covering post-colonial studies, work on indigenous politics, or the work of recent theorists," the Political Science faculty plan to modify the curriculum to address these concerns.

2. **Achievements of students who have adopted political science as their major field of study at UoG.** Undergraduate students who have completed liberal arts programs at University of Guam with Political Science as their major have an impressive record of achievements derived from their education. Five times during the past six years, political science majors have been selected to deliver the valedictorian address at the spring commencement.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Several of the five valedictorians were double majors, combining political science with a second field of study.

Additionally, Political Science majors frequently graduate with honors cum laude and summa cum laude, as well as with membership in the Pi Sigma Alpha national political science honor society (all three full-time faculty members also are Pi Sigma Alpha members). A 2005 Political Science Alumni Survey found that students responding to the survey had found suitable, program-related employment. Alumni of the undergraduate program include two sitting members of the Guam legislature, one sitting member of the legislature of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the former President of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

**3. Consistency with recommendations of the Wahlke Report.** In 1989-91, the Association of American Colleges (now the Association of American Colleges and Universities) commissioned task forces to identify curriculum standards and recommendations in 12 different fields of study, including political science.<sup>2</sup> The task force for political science was conducted under the auspices of the American Political Science Association (APSA). The recommendations of the so-called Wahlke Report represent the recent "official" guidelines the quality on political science curricula at the undergraduate level.

The Wahlke Report emphasized the inclusion of ethnicity and gender in the political science curriculum; teaching in comparative perspective, the introductory American politics course, and raising international awareness. Additionally, the standards identified a preferred course sequence that begins with a common freshman experience introducing incoming majors to theories, concepts, and issues central to the discipline. This introductory course conveys an accessible overview of the discipline and serves as a building block for subsequent courses. The sequence must also include a required course on research methodology, emphasizing exposure to the broad contours and logic of social scientific inquiry rather than statistics per se. That emphasis followed from an understanding of the political science major as one component of a broader liberal arts education rather than as pre-vocational training; that is, the purpose of studying political science as undergraduates was not to produce political science graduate students, but to enable students to "comprehend and deal with the political world after graduation."<sup>3</sup>

Review of the sequence and content of courses required for political science majors at the University of Guam indicates complete congruence with these recommendations. The recommended mix of courses on American government, comparative perspective, and global politics is incorporated in the requirements for political science majors at the University of Guam. Additionally, the syllabi of PS 101, Introduction to Government and Politics, and PS 414, Advanced Research in Political Science, capture the elements of the requirements for the introductory course and the methodology course as identified by the Wahlke Report. Thus, the requirements for majors in the political science program at the University of Guam are consistent with the most recent AACU/APSA standards for program quality in undergraduate political science.

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<sup>2</sup> Association of American Colleges. 1990. *Reports from the Fields: Liberal Learning and the Arts and Sciences Major*. Volume 2. Washington: Association of American Colleges.

<sup>3</sup> Wahlke, John C. 1991. "Liberal Learning and the Political Science Major: A Report to the Profession." *PS 24* (March), p. 50.

## **2. Course outlines and course Student Learning Outcomes and assessment plan in place.**

Although all course outlines have been revised and upgraded in preparation for the recent triennial review, modifications in course offerings and outlines are now in planning for implementation during 2008-2010. These modifications reflect (1) changes in the philosophy of comparative politics, (2) recommendations for the institution of a pre-law program per the results of the triennial review, and (3) changing needs of prospective students due to the anticipated changes in the demography of the University of Guam's service area (e.g., significant increase in the number of residents on active duty in the armed forces). New course outlines and Student Learning Outcomes will be required to meet this evolution.

## **3. Centrality to mission**

Part of the University mission is "to serve its learners and the communities of Guam, Micronesia, and the neighboring areas of the Pacific and Asia." The Political Science program contributes to this mission by offering the following undergraduate courses uniquely dedicated to the needs of the region:

- PS 100 Introduction to Citizenship
- PS 225 State and Territorial Government
- PS 304 Comparative Government and Politics of Asia
- PS 412 Political Development in the Western Pacific
- PS 485 International Relations in Asia-Pacific

These specialized courses constitute over 25% of the total Political Science undergraduate courses offered by the University of Guam.

## **4. Support of strategic initiatives**

The members of the Political Science program faculty are in process of contributing to the capacity of the University of Guam to meet the professional and pre-professional needs of the communities of Guam and Micronesia by developing a pre-law major that will allow prospective members of the legal and judiciary professions to receive a solid liberal arts background appropriate to the career plans in their home region. The pre-law major, recommended by the triennial review, may be in place as early as 2009-2010 academic year.

## **5. Meeting student and regional needs**

The senior member of the faculty of the Political Science program has been appointed by the students to serve as the primary advisor to the Student Government Association for the past six years. Additionally, the Political Science faculty members have organized a reference library for majors in political science to supplement the collections of the Robert Kennedy Library of the University of Guam.

In addition to the regional needs mentioned in #3, a Political Science faculty member provides advice and consultation to elements of the Government of Guam and the Government of CNMI in meeting program evaluation needs for the PATH grants. A report illustrating the clarification of the grant application can be provided as evidence of this activity.

## **6. Completed program reviews, with recommendations acted upon (last review and actions taken).**

The Political Science program is awaiting senior administrative approval of the recently completed triennial program review; Faculty Senate approval of the review process occurred in October 2007.

In anticipation of approval of the program review, the Political Science program currently has plans in progress to meet two of the major recommendations: the organization of more informal meeting opportunities with political science majors and the design and implementation of a pre-law major program.