



University of Maryland University College

**Baccalaureate Degree Program in Political Science
Department of Communication, Arts, and Humanities**

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN
Program Outcomes and Learning Assessment Criteria

Fall 2007

Baccalaureate Degree Program in Political Science

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The major in political science offers systematic study of politics, including the way people are governed and govern themselves in a wide variety of settings. The curriculum focuses on fundamental principles, enduring issues of politics, forms of government, public policy, public law, and public administration from both domestic and international perspectives. The program explores political, cultural, and philosophical influences on public policy and policy making. By enabling students to understand the role of government at local, state, and national levels in domestic and foreign settings, the program prepares graduates to become more effective global citizens as well as preparing them to enter or advance careers in government service, private corporations, nonprofit organizations, or advanced study in law, business, journalism, or graduate school.

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PROGRAM OF STUDY

The program of study for the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Political Science is as follows:

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Communications	12 credit hours
Arts and Humanities	6 credit hours
Behavioral and Social Sciences	6 credit hours
Biological and Physical Sciences	7 credit hours
Mathematics	3 credit hours
Interdisciplinary or Emerging Issues	7 credit hours

CROSS-CURRICULAR PERSPECTIVE REQUIREMENTS

Historical Perspective	3 credit hours
International Perspective	3 credit hours
Civic Responsibility Perspective	3 credit hours

REQUIRED COURSES

GVPT 100	Introduction to Political Science	3 credit hours
GVPT 280	Comparative Politics and Government	3 credit hours
GVPT 101 or GVPT 444	Introduction to Political Theory American Political Theory	3 credit hours
GVPT 200 or GVPT 401	International Political Relations Problems of World Politics	3 credit hours
STAT 200	Introduction to Statistics	3 credit hours

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PROGRAM OF STUDY (continued)

GVPT 475 or GVPT 170	The Presidency and the Executive Branch American Government	3 credit hours
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Four additional supplemental major courses	12 credit hours
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<u>MINOR AND ELECTIVE COURSES</u>	46 credit hours
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Minor and/or elective courses are to be taken in the last 60 hours along with required major courses. Refer to the current UMUC School of Undergraduate Studies Catalog for the minor and/or elective course requirements.

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DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The table below identifies the curricular influences that support the program outcomes specific to the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Political Science.

SOURCES/RESOURCES PROVIDING CURRICULAR FOUNDATION FOR PROGRAM OUTCOMES Baccalaureate Degree Program in Political Science		
SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	WEB ADDRESS OR DOCUMENT NAME (if applicable)
Core Learning Areas of the UMUC School of Undergraduate Studies	<p>All UMUC degree programs are required to imbed identified Core Learning Areas into the program of study. The Core Learning Areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Communication (COMM) • Technology Fluency (TECH) • Information Literacy (INFO) • Quantitative Literacy (QUAN) • Critical Thinking (THIN) • Scientific Literacy (SCIE) <p>The expanded definition for each Core Learning Area was considered in creating the respective program outcome.</p>	UMUC <u>Institutional Plan for the Assessment of Student Learning</u>
American Political Science Association (APSA)	The APSA defines ethical and professional standards and offers advice on good practices in the field.	<u>http://www.apsanet.org/</u>

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PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The program outcomes specific to the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Political Science are delineated below. The program outcomes describe the expectations for all graduates of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Political Science.

CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES Baccalaureate Degree Program in Political Science
	Upon completion of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Political Science, graduates will be able to:
COMM	Create written communication appropriate for the purpose and which meets standards of style and grammatical correctness.+ Apply critical thinking and analytic and effective communication skills in discussing and resolving political issues.*
TECH	Evaluate technological concepts related to computers and components of information systems.+ Utilize information technology effectively for the research of political literature.*
INFO	Address recognized research needs by retrieving, evaluating, and using information appropriately.+ Analyze recurrent patterns of international and domestic political conflict.*
QUAN	Apply mathematical and numerical reasoning skills.+ Generate statistical data from research models.*
THIN	Explain political theories, forms, and structures of government as well as the impact upon the political process, policy development, and international politics.*
SCIE	Identify key concepts and principles of natural sciences.+ Apply effectively a variety of approaches and methodologies to the analysis of political, administrative, and policy problems.*

+ Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of the general education requirements. This program outcome is common across all UMUC baccalaureate degree programs.

* Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of requirements in the baccalaureate degree program. This program outcome is unique to each UMUC baccalaureate degree program.

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ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES WITH LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

The following grid aligns the program outcomes of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Political Science with: 1) learning objectives from the designated program coursework and 2) specific methods used to assess student learning within the degree program.

CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT			
Baccalaureate Degree Program in Political Science			
CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK	METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT
COMM	Create written communication appropriate for the purpose and which meets standards of style and grammatical correctness.+	Plan and write a research-based essay that makes effective use of resources found in databases available from UMUC's Office of Information and Library Services as well as resources located through Web search engines. (WRTG 101)	Research Paper
		Research, compile, and document relevant, credible information and use it to support ideas presented in your writing. (WRTG 393)	Research Paper
		Collect, select, analyze, interpret, and organize data, and use it appropriately in business communications, including a long formal report. (WRTG 394)	Research Paper
		Conduct a systematic audience analysis and apply it to a report, essay, or research paper. (WRTG 391)	Research Paper
	Devise an appropriate thesis for a research essay in political science.*	Demonstrate the sequential stages of writing a comparative political analysis: thesis, scope, and method statements; outline; rough draft; and final draft. (GVPT 280)	Research paper

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CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT			
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CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK	METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT
TECH	Evaluate technological concepts related to computers and components of information systems.+	Analyze issues faced by information system professionals, including security, ethical, and privacy problems. (IFSM 201)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Use the internet effectively to locate appropriate scholarly articles and other resources for a political science course.*	Perform searches for primary and secondary resources both online and offline. (GVPT 170)	Research Paper
INFO	Address recognized research needs by retrieving, evaluating, and using information appropriately.+	Select relevant print and electronic sources to answer research questions. (LIBS 150)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Use primary and secondary sources from libraries, archives, public collections, the internet, and oral interviews to interpret political events.*	Ascertain the reliability of source materials. (GVPT 101)	Research Paper
QUAN	Apply mathematical and numerical reasoning skills.+	Solve linear, quadratic, higher-order polynomial, fractional, radical, exponential, logarithmic, and absolute value equations and inequalities. (MATH 107)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
		Develop problem solving skills. (MATH 105 or MATH 106)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Trace demographic trends, economic models, voting trends, demographics and specific era constructs to facilitate interpretation on social and political order.*	Trace the political ebb and flow of governance and societies to trace the how shifting demographics shape political thought and legislation. (GVPT 413)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
THIN	Comprehend and interpret political data.*	Discuss the political relevance of popular culture, art, and philosophy as agents of social change. (GVPT 473)	Exam (Course/Chapter)

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CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT			
Baccalaureate Degree Program in Political Science			
CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK	METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT
SCIE	Identify key concepts and principles of natural sciences.+	Recognize the differences and the interrelationships among physics, chemistry, the earth sciences, and astronomy. (NSCI 100)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
		Explain the significance of DNA in determining the composition, characteristics, reproduction, and behavior of an organism. (BIOL 101)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Explain the role of modern scientific discoveries and technology on political and governmental events.*	Examine the impact of technology on the government, workplace, home, and society. (GVPT 280)	Exam (Course/Chapter)

+ Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of the general education requirements. This program outcome is common across all UMUC baccalaureate degree programs.

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