**Executive Summary**

(After completing the questions on the next few pages, please replace this area with a written executive summary of the questions that follow, including your data analysis, findings, action plan, and improvements you have already made. This will be the top sheet of your report. This summary should be at least a paragraph, and can definitely be longer if desired.)

**Overall, the results are satisfactory. Most of our students are meeting the program learning outcomes. The students are doing nice work in accomplishing PLO #1, which addresses critical and creative thinking. There is room for improvement in the results for PLO #3, which relates to searching for, and critiquing, political science literature. Improvements can also be made in connection to the results for PLO #4, which involves evaluating governmental laws, political institutions, and public policies.**

**We created our PLOs this past cycle. Through the process of assessing our CLOs, we have developed new PLOs that are informed by the CLOs. The Political Science Department’s action plan is to create strategies to help students find and critique political science literature. In addition, we are currently working to incorporate new, varied, and engaging ways of presenting the subject material. This is especially important for PLO #4.**

**Faculty Included in the Preparation and Sharing of this Report:**

(please replace this area with the names of all faculty that helped to prepare and provide input on this report. This includes faculty who were parts of draft discussions and conversations. Ideally, it is all faculty representing the core disciplines making up the degree or certificate.)

**Steve Miller**

**Please provide a brief and cogent narrative in response to each of the following questions.**

1. Provide a quantitative analysis for each PLO your CLOs inform. Provide the total number of students who passed/total number of students assessed in each PLO column *and* the corresponding PLO passing rate as an aggregated percentage*.*

**AWARD (and corresponding PLO) Students Passed/Assessed TOTAL RATE**

A.S.-T. Degree: Political Science

1. *Use critical and creative thinking to address major political problems.* **290/356****81%** *N/A*
2. *Analyze key concepts and important theories in political science. N/A N/A*
3. *Effectively search for, interpret, and critique political science literature.* **299/400****75%** *N/A*
4. *Formulate and communicate thoughtful opinions about governmental systems, political* **305/389****78%**

 *institutions, laws, and public policies.*

**81% of our students met PLO #1 (*Use critical and creative thinking to address major political problems)*.** **These results are solid. However, only 75% attained PLO #3 (*Effectively search for, interpret, and critique political science literature.)* And these results are little low. Thus, more work needs to be done to help students attain PLO #3. Regarding PLO #4 (*Formulate and communicate thoughtful opinions about governmental systems, political institutions, laws, and public policies.*), the results were at 78%. That is satisfactory but could be a little higher.**

**None of our CLOs assessed during this cycle informed PLO #2. We assessed CLOs that relate to PLO #2 prior to this most recent cycle. However, because these CLOs were assessed prior to Spring 2013, the data was not included in this report.**

1. Reflect on, consider and analyze the data you have. ***What does your CLO data tell you about how your students are achieving PLOs?*** *Be detailed, descriptive and analytical* in this qualitative assessment of each PLO in relation to your CLO data. **Are your results satisfactory?**

**PLO #1 relates directly to critical and creative thinking skills, and the fact that 81% met this PLO is a good indicator that our students are demonstrating these important skills.**

**However, our data suggests that students need to improve in their ability to “*Effectively search for, interpret, and critique political science literature”* (PLO #3).The problem here is that while students are quite familiar with searching on the Internet, a number of them are less familiar with strategies to find scholarly political science literature. Students rely too much on non-scholarly websites such as Wikipedia. Also, the idea of writing critiques can be challenging for some of our students.**

**The data for PLO #4 was better. The results indicate that students are retaining political knowledge set forth by their political science instructors. And they are able to make evaluations. However, our faculty still need to develop ways to help our students improve in these areas.**

**In sum, the results are satisfactory but there is room for improvement.**

1. Your department and the college should be making improvements based on student learning outcomes assessment, and we need to continue to document and share the improvements and progress you have already made. Did you make any changes in your CLO or PLO statements or analysis during the last cycle or recently? Did you receive funding for resources requests that were aimed to improve assessment results? Did you make any improvements in the areas of teaching and instruction processes, your courses, or your program? *Please explain your accomplishments and provide details about your efforts.*

**Our four PLOs were written during this last cycle. The fact that we have four PLOs is appropriate, and they each cover a different aspect of, and angle related to, political science. We also made some modifications with our CLOs, so that they would align better with the PLOs. Our CLOs now inform our PLOs.**

**The Political Science Department did not receive funding for resources requests that were aimed to improve assessment results.**

**Regarding the issue of improvements in teaching, I think having these PLOs helps our department focus on what we are trying to accomplish as a program. It helps us think about these ways that all of our courses fit together. In terms of improvements, we have discussed the importance of using multiple formats in our classes
(lecture, discussions, class activities, visual presentations). The goal is to reach all students of diverse learning styles.**

1. **Action Plan.** Based on the assessments and analysis you have provided, please consider what changes or improvements you would like to make, which might include updating your CLO statements, modifying course outlines, rethinking instruction efforts, using different assessment instruments, asking for additional resources to improve assessment results, etc. ***Based on the analysis, provide an action plan for improvement that draws on your assessment results and efforts.***

**Our action plan has the following components:**

1. **Help students develop skills in finding academic political science literature.**
2. **Provide students with an example of a good political science literature critique, so they can better understand how to critique literature. The example could be the work of a student.**
3. **Emphasize the importance of using varied ways of presenting the subject material. This is particularly important for PLO #4 and for meeting the needs of students with diverse learning styles.**