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Academic Learning Compact : Political Science [Effective 2013]

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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Academic Learning Compacts – ALCs
Political Science
CIP: 45.1001

Academic Program Mission

Committed to the liberal arts tradition of intellectual curiosity and diversity, the Department of Government & International Affairs at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg offers students rigorous program of study that prepares them for successful careers in a rapidly globalizing world. Students in the program examine basic questions of political science, including how national struggle over power and wealth, how political communities reconcile claims of liberty, authority, and justice, and how governments and societies produce the policies that influence our lives. Students choose courses from the major subfields of American government, international relations, comparative politics, political theory, and public law. Students develop critical analytical skills that allow them to understand and explain political problems and issues at the local, state, national; and international levels. The program is unique in its focus on human rights and civil rights across the curriculum, as well as its commitment to civic engagement and experiential learning. Meeting the degree requirements in political science will prepare students for positions in public service and the private sector, for law school, and for graduate work in political science, international relations, public administration, and related disciplines.

Career/Employment Options for Graduates

Social Scientist, Government Service, Non- Governmental Organizations, Policy Analyst, Campaign Staffer, Reporter, Public Relations, Human Resources, News Analyst

Specific Information on this Academic Program

<http://www1.usfsp.edu/hp/politicalscience.htm>

Details Relating to Student Learning Outcomes

1.Content/ Discipline skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment	Criteria for Success
1a. Demonstrate an understanding of American political institutions, culture and behavior.	In the final examination for POS 2041 (American National Government), students will evaluate American political institutions, culture, and behavior.	80 percent of students will successfully identify three distinct differences between American political institutions and behavior. Corroborating Evidence (ALC Requirement Only): 80 percent of students will score at least 70 percent and above on a final examination in POS 2041(American National Government).

2. Communication Skills		
Goals/objectives	Means of Assessment	Criteria for success
2a. Demonstrate written communication skills through written assignments	Students must complete writing assignments in two different upper-level political science courses.	The political science department maintains a portfolio of samples of outstanding, average and unsatisfactory papers written for upper-level political science courses (student identification is redacted). These papers serve as examples for students as well as a basis for measuring performance. At least 75 percent of papers will be average to outstanding. Corroborating Evidence (ALC Requirement Only): At least 80 percent of students will score at least 70 percent on the major writing assignment or written portion of the final examination in two upper-level political science courses.

3.Critical thinking skills		
Goals/objectives	Means of Assesment	Criteria for success
3a. Demonstrate ability to understand and articulate the philosophical, legal and political factors influencing the government and politics of nations	Students will write essays in POT 3003 (Introduction to Political Theory) in which they critically engage competing political and/or legal philosophies	Criteria for Success: At least 80 percent of students will successfully explicate the philosophies of two different theorists concerning issues of politics and/or law. Corroborating Evidence (ALC Requirement Only): At least 80 percent of students will score at least 70 percent on the final examination in POT 3003 (Introduction to Political Theory).

4.Civic engagement		
Goals/objectives	Means of Assesment	Criteria for success
4a Relate theoretical knowledge with practical experience by engaging in internships in the student's area of interest. Internships may be served in local, state, and federal governments; the legal field, campaigns or public service, or in international or non-governmental organizations.	Students must complete either POS 4941 -- Fieldwork, or POS 3931 -- Practical Politics, or complete a civic engagement project in another class (e.g., Law and Politics, American National Government, or the Road to the White House).	At least 75 percent of students will receive a positive evaluation from the sponsoring agency or the supervising faculty member based on a standard set of questions. Corroborating Evidence (ALC Requirement Only): Students will prepare a written summary of their internship or civic engagement project.