

California State University, Chico
Annual Program Assessment Status Update

Program: BA in Political Science, Option in Legal Studies

	Student Learning Outcomes	Describe Assessment Activity	Findings	Based on results or evidence, what action was taken?
2005-2006	Students will have understanding and knowledge of the state and federal courts systems and how those systems interrelate in a constitutional system, which recognizes individual civil rights and civil liberties, states' rights and the need for national policy.	Evaluation of student scores on midterm exam in POLS 351 Introduction to Legal Studies.	19%-92% (depending on question) achieved the student learning outcome. A plurality of student selected the correct answer for 13 of the 16 questions.	Because the student learning outcome assessed was met, no curriculum changes were planned at this time.
2006-2007	Students can apply their legal studies skills and knowledge in applied settings.	Evaluation of intern performance in POLS 489K Internship in Legal Studies.	96% of students used legal research skills in their internship experience.	Because the student learning outcome assessed was met, no curriculum changes were planned at this time.

2007-2008	Students will be able to recognize potential ethical conflicts and take appropriate measures to comply with the applicable ethical code of conduct.	Evaluation of intern performance in POLS 489K Internship in Legal Studies and POLS 489L Internship in Public Law.	94% of students responded they felt their internships helped them recognize and handle ethical conflicts.	Because the student learning outcomes assessed were met, no curriculum changes were planned at this time.
	Students will work in community service learning internships, applying their legal studies skills and knowledge in a professional setting under the direct supervision of licensed attorneys.		Research: 90%; Analysis: 55%; Client Issues: 99%; Legal Drafting: 31%; Fact gathering and interviews: 92%	
2008-2009	Students will have understanding and knowledge of the state and federal court systems and how those systems interrelate to each other.	Evaluation of student exam scores in POLS 451A Constitutional Law: Powers and Restraints and POLS 451B Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.	The assessment data reveals student achievement above our minimum expectation. Further, the data shows that the student learning outcome is effectively being taught in the	Because the student learning outcomes assessed were met, no curriculum changes were planned at this time.

	Students will have understanding and knowledge of major constitutional provisions, including the federal government's powers and restraints and individual civil rights and civil liberties.		course material of POLS 451A.	
2009-2010	Students can conduct research and perform writing with sufficient clarity to convey their knowledge and skills.	Evaluation of student scores on course writing assignment in POLS 454 Legal Research and Writing.	72% of students achieved this student learning outcome.	Legal Studies faculty members discussed strategies to ensure that our students acquire sufficient knowledge of both the oral and written skills necessary for effective legal advocacy.
	Students will demonstrate understanding and knowledge of legal advocacy.	Evaluation of student scores on written legal briefs and oral arguments in POLS 491 Trial and Appellate Advocacy.	43%-58% (depending on assignment) achieved this student learning outcome.	
2010-2011	Students can apply their legal studies skills and knowledge in applied settings.	Evaluation of student scores on course assignment in POLS 455 Civil Litigation.	75% of student assignments received scores of 70% or higher. The combined mean score for all student assignments was 79%.	Because the student learning outcomes assessed were met, no curriculum changes were planned at this time.

	Students will have the ability to orally communicate legal concepts and theories that they have researched and developed.	Evaluation of student scores on oral presentations in POLS 112 Law, Politics, and the Distribution of Justice.	97% of student presentations received scores of 70% or higher. The combined mean score for all student presentations was 89%.	
2011-2012	Students will have understanding and knowledge of the state and federal court systems and how those systems interrelate to each other.	Evaluation of student scores on exam questions in POLS 351 Introduction to Legal Studies.	The assessment data reveal that 70% or more of students correctly answered 4 out of 15 questions correctly. Fewer than 70% of students correctly answered 11 out of 15 questions correctly.	Legal Studies faculty members discussed strategies to ensure that our students acquire sufficient knowledge of both the state and federal court systems, as well as knowledge of major constitutional provisions. Program faculty also considered more concrete ways to present relevant information to our students.
	Students will have understanding and knowledge of major constitutional provisions, including the federal government's powers and restraints and individual civil rights and civil liberties.	Evaluation of student scores on course exam in POLS 464 Administrative Law.	The assessment data reveal that 61% of students received exam scores of 70% or higher.	
2012-2013	Students can conduct research and perform writing with sufficient clarity to convey their knowledge and skills.	Evaluation of student scores on research assignment in POLS 454 Legal Research and Writing.	Seventy-three percent of student assignments received scores of 70% or higher. The combined mean score	Because the student learning outcome assessed was met, no curriculum changes

			for all assignments was 78%. The median score was 88%.	were planned at this time.
2013-2014	Students will demonstrate understanding and knowledge of legal advocacy.	Direct, embedded assessment of students' abilities through evaluation of students' coursework in POLS 491 Trial and Appellate Advocacy.	Seventy-six percent of student assignments received scores of 70% or higher. The combined mean score for all assignments was 77.27%.	Because the student learning outcome assessed was met, no curriculum changes were planned at this time.
2014-2015	Students can apply their legal studies skills and knowledge in applied settings.	Student evaluations about internship experiences in exit surveys in POLS 489K Internship in Legal Studies and POLS 489L Internship in Public Law.	The data from the student intern exit surveys shows that for most of the exit survey questions examined, 70% or more of our students indicated that they applied legal studies skills and knowledge in the applied setting of our Community Legal Information Center.	Because the student learning outcome assessed was met, no curriculum changes were planned at this time.
2015-2016	Students will have the ability to orally communicate legal concepts and theories that they have researched and developed.	Evaluation of student scores on oral presentations in POLS 491 Trial and Appellate Advocacy.	93% of students achieved average performance (50%) or higher on the overall oral argument presentation. The combined mean score for all presentations was 72.15%.	Because the student learning outcome assessed was met, no curriculum changes were planned at this time.

2016-2017	Students can conduct research and perform writing with sufficient clarity to convey their knowledge and skills.	Assessment scoring rubric for student writing adopted by the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences in POLS 401 Sexual Minorities, Law, and Politics.	For content, the scores on the rubric showed 81% meeting or exceeding expectations. For organization, the result was 88% meeting or exceeding expectations. For sources and evidence, meeting or exceeding expectations came in at 97%. For grammar and style, the rubric assessments came in at 70% as meeting or exceeding expectations.	Because the student learning outcome assessed was met, no curriculum changes were planned at this time.
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