



College	CLASS
Department	POSC
Reporting for Academic Year	2018-19
Department Chair	Elizabeth Bergman
Date Submitted	October 1, 2019

ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

I. SELF-STUDY

A. Five-Year Review Planning Goals

1. To meet the needs of our majors through attention to advising (including improved major roadmap materials) and careful scheduling of courses;
2. To offer strong academic programs in the 5 subfields of the major: American Politics and Policy, Public Law, Comparative Politics, International Relations and Political Theory;
3. To maintain high standards of teaching, with support for innovation and improvement;
4. To make ongoing contributions to the field of political science;
5. To promote active citizenship through our instructional offerings, student activities, and sponsorship of campus events;
6. To attract new majors by developing new curricula and promotional materials and by doing outreach to community colleges.

B. Progress Toward Five-Year Review Planning Goals as of end of Spring 2019

1. To meet the needs of our majors through attention to advising (including improved materials) and careful scheduling of courses;

4. To make ongoing contributions to the field of political science;

Our faculty continue to be active in the discipline presenting research at conferences such as the American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, International Studies Association (regional and main conferences) as well as serving in these venues as chairs, discussants, and as members of roundtables discussions. Our faculty have published their work in numerous journals, as well as book chapters in edited books with reputable publishers on such relevant topics as:

As shown in Table 1 on the previous page, the Political Science Department continues to award approximately the same number of degrees over the last five academic years (with the exception of AY 2015-16).

In terms of student enrollment, Table 2 on the next page tells an informative and important story of the changing nature of who political science majors are. The Political Science Department has seen an increase in URM students as a proportion of majors from 49% in Fall 2014 to 60% in Fall 2018. Additional data obtained from the University Dashboard¹ shows that the proportion of majors who are FirstGen increased during the 2014 to 2018 period from 58% to 61%. In the same period, Freshman majors increased from 44% to 56% and political science transfer student majors declined similarly (from 56% to 44%).

This means that our incoming political science majors are increasingly FirstGen Freshman from underrepresented minorities, FirstGen, Freshman, and URM students face significant challenges in retention and timely graduation (6-years or less). We will continue to have a positive impact on retention and graduation rates of majors through high-touch advising and 1-on-

Table 2

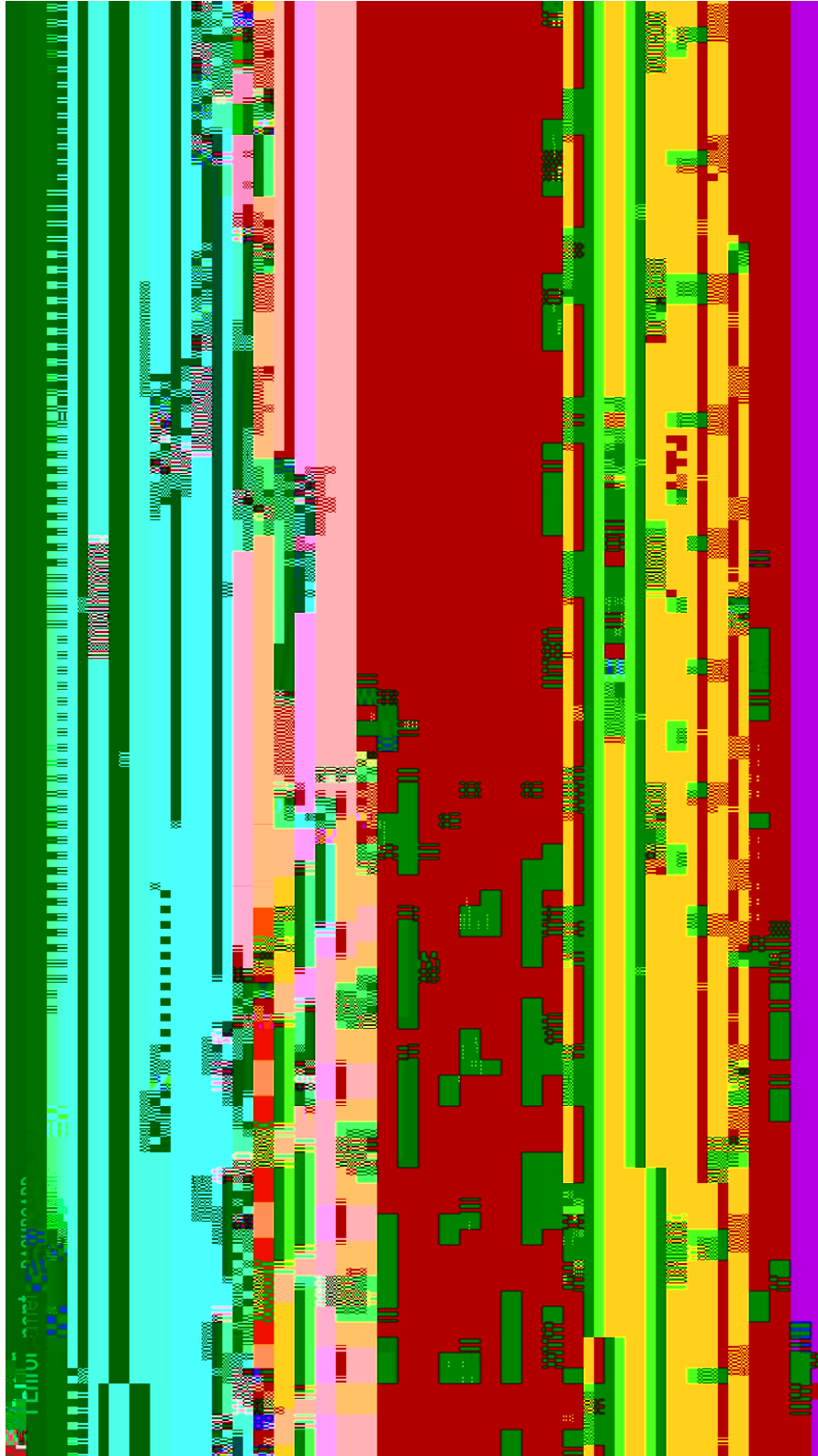


Table 3

Faculty Resources: The department has six full time faculty. One member is currently FERP'ing and another is expected to FERP within the next year. A small department such as the Political Science Department has an extra burden placed on faculty to accomplish

II. SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

A. Program Learning Outcomes

PLO 1. Political Science majors will be able to apply analytical and quantitative reasoning to theory and practice of political systems. (ILO 1, 4, 6)

PLO 2. Political Science majors will articulate through oral and written competency the advanced elements of the political science field. (ILO 1, 2, 6)

PLO 3. Political Science majors will describe political institutions, processes, and culture in the US and around the world including the diversity of socio-demographic groups. (ILO 1, 2, 6)

POSC 499. These skills are: problem and hypothesis formulation, strengths and weaknesses of research methods, data interpretation, and review of literature.

Sampling Procedure: None, all students asked to complete survey.

Sample Characteristics:

	view of whether or not the PLOs are being achieved.
<p>Instrument 3 results shows that most students do finish their political science major with a good understanding of the field and research methods. A majority of the students demonstrated that they have acquired skills in problem formulation, the use of research methods, data interpretation, and identifying the key arguments and counter-arguments in academic journal articles. Around half or less than half of the students surveyed have improved their knowledge of theories, hypotheses and data interpretation.</p>	<p>Continue to improve the course materials for the courses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Regular consultations among instructors of the two courses. -Continue with scaffolding requirements and develop additional worksheets and assignments. -Request to change the two courses from 3 units to 4 units. This will give students more time to develop their skills through application. This will also reflect the actual workload for the instructors.

E. Assessment Plans for Next Year

There is a need to fine tune the assessment of POSC 300 and 499 specifically PLOs 1 and 2. The plan is to:

- x Ensure that the enrollment system clearly shows that POSC 300 is a prerequisite for POSC 499;
- x Improve and standardize the surveys / assessments for all POSC 300 and 499 courses regardless of the instructor teaching the course;
- x Determine when the surveys will be deployed (e.g., at the beginning, middle or end of the term);
- x Build a shared folder so instructors can exchange material, pedagogy, worksheets, etc.;
- x Discuss Methods Sequence Revisions at Department Meeting

III. DISCUSSION OF PROGRAM DATA & RESOURCE REQUESTS

A. Discussion of Trends & Reflections

Reflections on Trends and Program Statistics:

Table 2 shows the number of political science majors since 2014. The data and trends regarding political science major numbers, both at CSU East Bay and nationally at other similar institutions, have not changed meaningfully since our report last year. The department continues to make efforts to increase the number of majors to the extent possible.

B. Request for Resources

Request for Tenure-Track Hires – YES

POSC is requesting a faculty hire this year for the AY 2020-21 with a specialization in law. We hired one new faculty in 2018-19 (Comparative). Our current TT faculty are 6 + 1 FERP. However, our Pre-Law faculty member is ending FERP soon and this will mean that there is no faculty member to support the political science Pre-Law option in the major. At least 50% of political science majors are Pre-Law.

Appendix I – Survey of Required Political Science Major Methods/Capstone Sequences of Other CSUs

	Research Methods - (No Stats)	Capstone (Senior Project)	Statistics/Data Science	Other 'Intro to Pol Sci'	Senior Seminar (Topical)	Note
CSU East Bay	x - 'POSC300: Intro to Pol Sci'	x - 'POSC499: Senior Capstone'				
San Francisco State					x - Note: 'Research Methods is an *option*, others = American, Comparative, Study Abroad, etc.'	
San Jose State	x - 'Political Inquiry'rev					

Sonoma State	x - 'Social Science Research Methods'				x - 'Senior Seminar'	
CSU Chico	x - 'Intro to Research Methods/Tech. of Research'	x2 - 'Capstone' plus two 1-credit courses				
CSU Long Beach	x - 'Scope and Methods of Pol Sci'				x - 'Senior Seminar'	
Cal Poly - SLO	x - 'Research Design'	x2 - 'Senior Project I and II'	x - 'Data Analysis in Pol Sci'	x - 'Political Inquiry'		
Cal Poly - Pomona	x - 'Intro to Research Methods'+ 'Lab/activity'	x2 - 'Senior Thesis' or 'Senior Internship'	Note: Included in Research Methods Class	x - 'Resources in Political Sci.' (2 credits)		
CSU San Marcos	x - 'The Practice of Political Research'	x - 'Senior Seminar' (Really a Capstone)				
CSU Stanislaus	x(option) - 'Intro to Poli Sci' (or 'global politics' instead)					

CSU Northridge	x - 'Principles and Methods of Political Science'					
CSU Los Angeles		x - 'Senior Capstone'	x - 'Quantitative Methods in Political Science'			
CSU Fullerton	x(option) - 'Methods and Skills in Political Science' (or 'Into to the Study of Politics (non-methods)')		x(option) - 'Into to the Study of Politics (non-methods)'		Note: Also a 'Research Methods' requirement with three options - (Legal Research, Polling/Statistics, or Public Management Research)	

