Mission/Purpose

The University Core Curriculum Programs develop, implement and evaluate undergraduate academic and academic-support programs that establish a foundation for general education, provide lifelong learning skills and support the attainment of academic and career goals. The First-Year Learning Communities Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi immerses students in an active learning environment, providing a context to integrate curricular content, to develop skills, and to develop a sense of academic community.

This discipline is included as part of the Core Curriculum.

Student Learning Outcomes, with Any Associations and Related Measures, Achievement Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

O 1: Responsible Member of Society

The political science program will assess "Responsible Member of Society" by assessing the Social and Behavioral Sciences EEO#6:

To comprehend the origins and evolution of U.S. and Texas political systems, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights.

Associations:

General Education or Core Curriculum:

  8 Understand how to be responsible member of society

Related Measures:

M 1: Political Science Core Class Post Tests

The political science program has developed a new strategy for US Government and Politics (POLS 2305) and State and Local Politics (POLS 2306) For this assessment, selected items from the post test scores in the courses are used. These items reflect aspects of what it means to be a "responsible member of society." The questions assess knowledge of the origins and evolution of U.S. and Texas political systems, the growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights.

Data entered on 1/29/09 reflect the Fall 2008 post-test data.

Source of Evidence: Faculty pre-test / post-test of knowledge mastery

Documents:

  POLS 2305 Post Test
  POLS 2306 Post Test
**Achievement Target:**
The achievement target is a mean post-test score of 70% or higher on the selected items.

**Findings (2007-2008) - Achievement Target: Not Met**

POLS 2305  
57% -- Spring 2008

POLS 2306  
51% -- Fall 2007 and Spring 2008

**Related Action Plans:**

**Post Survey Item Analysis**
The political science professors will examine the post test questions and select items that more accurately connect with the criteria in EEO#6 (To comprehend the origins and evolution of U.S. and Texas political systems, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights).

Not all of the items on the post test connect with the EEO. Hence, the mean score from the items connected to the EEO will be used in Fall 2008.

For more information, see the *Action Plan Details* section of this report.

**Details for Action Plans Established This Cycle**

**Post Survey Item Analysis**
The political science professors will examine the post test questions and select items that more accurately connect with the criteria in EEO#6 (To comprehend the origins and evolution of U.S. and Texas political systems, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights).

Not all of the items on the post test connect with the EEO. Hence, the mean score from the items connected to the EEO will be used in Fall 2008.

**Priority:** Medium

**Target Date:** 02/2009  
This date will allow enough time to include this in the core entry following the fall 2008 semester.

**Responsible Person/Group:** Joe Jozwiak

**Analysis Answers**

**What specifically did your assessments show regarding proven strengths or progress you made on outcomes/objectives?**
Assessments do not reveal strengths or progress.

**What specifically did your assessments show regarding any outcomes/objectives that will require continued attention?**
The assessment instrument asks questions over topics that all professors do not address. Hence, the professors will need to meet and agree on key concepts all will emphasize.
Annual Reports

Executive Summary
The Political Science Program was part a core curriculum assessment plan for 2007-08. In this plan, examples of core assessment were drawn from select disciplines. Political Science was one of the disciplines selected in an effort to provide direct measures of student learning.

The idea is to test the viability of asking the disciplines in the core to each assess at least one core learning outcome.

A major challenge the program faced in 2007-08 was a staffing shortage. Based on a Program Review, the political science program was able to hire 2 full time instructors beginning in the 2005-06 academic year to address a severe faculty shortfall. However, by fall 2007 that was down to 1 full time instructor. The staffing shortage strained the resources of the program and the ability to deliver both core curriculum courses and upper division courses for majors.

Anticipated Challenges
A challenge facing the program in 2008-09 is meeting the demands of the core curriculum and the political science major. Political Science hired an additional tenure track professor for the 2008-09 AY. The challenge will be working through the process of developing a new faculty member.

Closing the Loop / Planned Actions
The 2007-08 assessment did not yield encouraging results. For the fall 2008 assessment the faculty will select specific questions from the post tests and only use those that most directly support EEO#6.

Summary of Requested Resources
Functioning technology in the classrooms where large sections of POLS 2305 and POLS 2306 are taught (especially CI 138, CI 113).

Finalizing the hiring of a new tenure track line to begin in fall 2009.

Research/Scholar Activity Accomplishment
The following articles examining the political science core courses at A&M-Corpus Christi were published during the 2007-08 AY in the peer reviewed Journal of Political Science Education:


"Developing Civic Engagement in General Education Political Science" By Juan Carlos Huerta and Joseph F. Jozwiak. Journal of Political Science Education. vol. 4, 2008.