

## 2017 Political Science Annual Program Plan

### PLSC Political Science

**I.A.** Describe the program(s) to be reviewed. What is the purpose of the program and how does it contribute to the mission of Skyline College? (**Program Profile: Purpose**)

#### Narrative

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The Program of Political Science introduces students to critical analysis of the ideals, the principles and the concepts that form the foundations of political systems, regimes and institutions at local, state, national and international levels. It draws the attention of the students to the efforts towards implementing these ideals, principles and concepts through the reality of politics. The course offerings in this program focus on the essentially dynamic nature of political process as exemplified by the transformations that have taken place within the various -isms and paradigms relative to politics and government.

One of the Program's goals is to offer courses that provide an opportunity for students to critically analyze past and current political theories, institutions and regimes. To emphasize students' role as intelligent, independently thinking and acting young women and men cognizant of their inherent power in impacting the political process and decisions that affect their lives as residents of a democratic society.

The Program contributes to the mission and the priorities of the College and the District by offering courses that enable students to meet part of their graduation package including courses which satisfy General Education and Transfer to four-year educational institutions requirements. In this respect, the Program does indeed contribute to the College's mission of providing an environment which enables students to understand their social responsibilities and the realization of their individual potential and the goal of providing lower division transfer courses which prepare students for continued education in four-year Colleges and Universities.

**II.A.** Describe the progress made on previously established program objectives (goals) including identification of achievements or areas in which further effort is needed. Programs which have not yet established CPR/APP objectives should discuss progress on program implementation or activities. (**Analysis: Progress on Prior Program Objectives (Goals) and Activities**)

### Narrative

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Two of the main curricular goals mentioned in the previous Program Planning Reports were the articulation for the units earned in PLSC 301, **State and Local Government** to be transferable to both the CSU and the UC systems.

1. In the past units earned in PLSC 301 were only transferable to the CSU system and not to the UC system. With the help and cooperation of the former Articulation Officer, Jacquie Escobar, we succeeded in enabling the units earned in PLSC 301 to be transferable to the UC system as well.
2. In compliance with the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (SB 1440 of 2010, we are in the process of creating an Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer Degree. We have identified Skyline College courses', titles, their units and their corresponding C-ID Descriptors and now we are in the process of finalizing the content of the proposed PLSC AA-T. We plan to present the final draft to Skyline College's Curriculum Committee for their consideration of the proposed PLSC AA-T before the end of Spring Semester, 2017.

**II.B.** Describe any recent external or internal changes impacting the program or which are expected to impact the program in the next year. Please include when the specified changes occurred or are expected to occur. (**Analysis: Program Environment**)

### **Narrative**

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Program Environment:

I do not see any significant external or internal changes, which might impact the Department of Political Science in the next year.

- II.C.** (1) Instructional Programs Only: Describe what was learned from the assessment of course SLOs for the current and past year.
- (2) Student Service Programs Only: If PSLOs are being assessed this year (3-year cycle), describe what was learned. If no assessment was done because this is an off-cycle year, please state that this item is not applicable. (**Analysis: Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs and PSLOs)**)

### **Narrative**

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In Fall Semester 2016, I assessed my students in PLSC10 AQ: American Politics. I assessed my students on all three SLOs for PLSC 210 course. I used the Pre-test and the Post-test method through multiple choices questions.

There were 25 students who did the Pre-test and Post-test tests. I divided the 30 multiple choices questions into three parts: The first 8 questions were based on SLO number I. The next 11 questions were based on SLO number II. The remaining 11 questions were based on SLO number III.

Note: If the 25 students got all the first 8 questions correct in SLO number I, then there would have been 200 correct answers and if they all got all the 11 questions based on SLO number II or SLO number III, then there would have been 275 correct answers.

The following were the results:

1. In respect to SLO number I:

In the Pre-test: 139 out of possible 200 answers were correct: representing 69.5%.  
In the Post-test: 167 out of 200 possible answers were correct: representing 83.5%.  
I had set a 10% benchmark for the Post-test results to be higher than the Pre-test.

Thus,  $83.5\% - 69.5\% = 14\%$ .

2. In respect to SLO number II:

In the Pre-test: 119 out of possible 275 answers were correct: representing 43.3%.  
In the Post-test: 185 out of 275 possible answers were correct: representing 67.2%.  
I had set a 10% benchmark for the Post-test results to be higher than the Pre-test.

Thus,  $67.2\% - 43.3\% = 24\%$ .

3. In respect to SLO number III:

In the Pre-test: 122 out of possible 275 answers were correct: representing 44.4%.  
In the Post-test: 172 out of 275 possible answers were correct: representing 62.5%.  
I had set a 10% benchmark for the Post-test results to be higher than the Pre-test.

Thus,  $62.5\% - 44.4\% = 18\%$ .

4. The average Pre-test correct scores for the three SLOs was 52.0%.  
The average Post-test correct scores for the three SLOs was 71.0%.
5. Thus, the three SLOs for PLSC 210 AQ, American Government, were fully satisfied.
6. The PSLOs is not applicable at this time.

**III.A.** Consider the previous analysis of progress achieved, program environment, and course-level SLOs or PSLOs (if applicable). What are the key findings and/or conclusions drawn? Discuss how what was learned can be used to improve the program's effectiveness. **(Reflection: Considering Key Findings)**

### Narrative

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In respect to Key Findings:

1. Regarding LOAD, Department of Political Science's average LOAD of 579 during the last five academic years is higher by 28 points than that of 551 for the college as a whole.
2. The Success and Retention rates for Skyline College and the Department of Political Science are within the same range: For the College, 70.4% and 85.0% and for the Department of Political Science, 68.3% and 82.2 % respectively.
3. The success and retention rates for female students for Skyline College and the Department of Political Science are within the same range: For Skyline College 73.5% and 86.1% while the figures for the Department of Political Science are as follows: 71.5% and 82.3% respectively.
4. There is however, a noticeable difference between the college as a whole and the Department of Political Science in respect to the success and the retention rates of African-American students.
5. The success and the retention rates for African-American students for the college as a whole: are, 56% and 79% respectively, while the corresponding figures for the Department of Political Science are, 72% and 86% respectively.

**III.B.** If the program participated in assessment of ISLOs this year:

- (1) What are the findings and/or conclusions drawn?
- (2) Does the program intend to make any changes or investigate further based on the findings? If so, briefly describe what the program intends to do. (**Reflection: ISLOs**)

### Narrative

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1. In addition to the three regular SLOs for Political Science 210: **American Politics**, PLSC 210 AQ students during Fall Semester 2016, also participated in one of the ISLOs, the **Information Literacy**. This ISLO includes the ability to-

- Effectively locate and access information in numerous formats ...
- Evaluate the relevance, quality, and credibility of a wide variety of sources of information
- Use information ethically and legally...

2. Students were assigned to write a critical research paper on:

**“The Role of the Electoral College in the election of the President of the United States.”**

3. On Tuesday, September 20, 2016, Professor Eric Brenner, for an hour and a quarter, in the Library, guided my students as how to conduct a scholarly information search for a critical thinking research paper.

4. Professor Karen Wong, Coordinator of Institutional Effectiveness provided me with a rubric for evaluating my students’ performance in writing their research papers. The rubric included the following levels of proficiency:-

- \* High Proficiency
- \* Proficiency
- \* Some Proficiency and
- \* No/Limited Proficiency.

5. I then assigned grades (A), (B) and (C) respectively to the above proficiencies. Applying the above rubric, the results were as follows in respect to the twenty-six students who did the research paper.

- \* Four students, (A) grades, High Proficiency – 15%.
- \* Seventeen students, (B) grades, Proficiency – 65% and
- \* Five students, (C) grades, Some Proficiency – 20%.

6. Note: No student scored below (C) grade.

7. In the light of the above findings, the Program does not intend to make any changes or do any further investigation in respect to this ISLOs.

8. The guidance that Professor Eric Brenner gave to my students on September 20, 2106, enabled my students to complete their written assignment relative to ISLOs successfully.



**IV.A.** Indicate whether the program is continuing implementation of the last CPR strategy or revising the strategy. Please describe the modifications if revisions are intended.

Note: Any new strategies should be linked to Institutional Goals through creation of objectives in the next section. If the program has not yet participated in comprehensive program review, an annual or multi-year strategy can be defined in this item. **(Strategy for Program Enhancement: Continuation/Modification)**

## **Narrative**

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1. The data provided in sections II.C, III.A and III.B indicates that the averages of quantifiable data of the relevant data for the Department of Political Science compared to those of the Skyline College as a whole are within the same ranges in terms of success, retention and LOAD. There are no shortcomings or deficiencies in this department, which need to be corrected as a matter of urgency with deadlines for their respective rectifications.

2. The common assessment we use is the Pre-test and the Post-test method.

To me, this is the most objective method of assessing our students: To test their knowledge of specific topics before they take the course and then test them on the same topics after they have completed the course and statistically measure the difference between their knowledge before they took the course and their knowledge after they have taken the course.

3. We are also continuing to enhance and facilitate disciplinary cooperation between the Department of Political Science and the departments of History, Economics and Philosophy. Indeed, two of Political Science courses are cross-listed with two other departments:

PLSC 280: Introduction to Political Philosophy, with the Department of Philosophy and  
PLSC 335: History and Politics of the Middle East with the Department of History.

**IV.B.** Based on the most recent CPR and any desired modifications, develop an annual action plan with related resource requests. No narrative response will be entered in this section, but the objectives you create will be printed automatically in the APP report under this item.

(1) To begin, click on PLANNING at the top of the page, then CREATE A NEW OBJECTIVE. To view previously created objectives, click PLANNING at the top of the page, then VIEW MY OBJECTIVE.

(2) IMPORTANT! Make sure to associate each objective to this standard in the APP. Need help? Contact the PRIE Office for further instructions. **(Strategy for Program Enhancement: Action Plan and Resource Requests)**

#### **Narrative**

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See Planning Module.

#### **Associated Objectives**

 [24-2017/2018: APP for Political Science](#)

# Task Details Report

Planning Year: 2017-2018

**Planning Unit:** Political Science  
**Unit Manager:** Masare, Johannes

**Objective:** 24 - 2017/2018: APP for Political Science

## Objective Description:

IV.B. Action Plan and Resource Requests.

1. A stepped-up collaboration and cooperation between the faculty of the Department of Political Science and our colleagues in the Departments of Philosophy and in the Department of History. We share cross-listed courses. The sharing of ideas and the teaching strategies among the faculty of these departments could enhance the effectiveness of the respective departments. In addition, with their permission, I plan to attend some of my colleagues' classroom presentations in order to learn something from their teaching methods.

In Fall Semester, 2017, I plan to contact a number of my colleagues in the mentioned departments.

2. I also plan to contact some of our colleagues in the other two sister-colleges, College of San Mateo and Canada College. A number of our students sometimes concurrently take courses at two of our colleges. We plan to bring some consistency in the titles and the numbering of courses at the three colleges in order to reduce possible confusion among our students.

For example, here at Skyline College, we have PLSC 301, California State and Local Government; however, at Canada College the same course is numbered and titled as PLSC 310, California Politics and Local Government. Could we harmonize the titles and the numbering of this same course offered at these two colleges?

In Fall Semester, 2017, I plan to contact our colleagues at Canada College about this matter.

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<b>Start Date:</b> 4/4/2017	<b>Task Type:</b> Department/Division/Unit	<b>Priority Level:</b> Low	<b>Task Order:</b> 1
<b>Due Date:</b>	<b>Completion Date:</b>	<b>Task Status:</b> New/Pending	<b>Budget:</b> \$0

There are no actions planned in this section at this time.

## Budget Remarks:

Date:	Name:	Remarks:
No Data to Display		

## Budget Details:

GL Code	Account	Description	Requested	Approved
No Data to Display				

## Assignment Details:

Name:	Email:
No Data to Display	

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