Program Level Outcome (PLO) Assessment Report Summary

Program Level Outcomes for Political Science:

Upon successful completion of the Political Science program, a student should be able to

- Demonstrate an ability to evaluate the governmental structures established by the Constitution of the United States of America and the California State Constitution.
- Apply critical thinking skills in reading, comprehending, and interpreting political science scholarship.
- Employ political science research methods to address political questions using primary and secondary sources.

What we looked at:

Essay assignments answered on midterm examinations to analyze the first program level outcome listed above outcome; assigned research papers were utilized to evaluate program level outcomes two and three listed above.

What we found:

(1) We found that more than 70% of students were successful in demonstrating an ability to evaluate the governmental structures established by the Constitution of the United States of America and the California State Constitution.

(2) We found that just over 60% of students were successful applying critical thinking skills in reading, comprehending, and interpreting political science scholarship. The most glaring deficiency we found is an inability of students to spend adequate time reading the assigned material and actually understanding what they read.

(3) We found that just over 80% of students were successful in employing political science research methods to address political questions using primary and secondary sources.

What our next steps are:

The most important next step is to focus our teaching efforts on applying critical thinking skills in reading, comprehending, and interpreting political science scholarship.