



Program Review and Planning 2019-2020

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM REVIEW AND PLANNING FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

Program Review is about documenting the plans you have for improving student success in your program and sharing that information with the community. Through the review of and reflection on key program elements, program review and planning identifies program strengths as well as strategies necessary to improve the academic discipline, program, or service to support student success. With our new Guided Pathways plan, this review becomes even more crucial for the success of our students and college.

[We are using the Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results \(SOAR\) strategic planning technique to help us focus on our current strengths and opportunities, create a vision of future aspirations, and consider the results of this approach.](#)

BASIC PROGRAM INFORMATION

Academic Year
2019-2020

Are you completing a comprehensive or annual PRP?
Annual

Department Name
Economics/History/Political Science

Discipline Name
Political Science (POSC)

Department Chair Name
Jose Esteban

Division Name
Social and Behavioral Sciences

Website address for your discipline
<https://www2.palomar.edu/pages/ehp/>

Discipline Mission statement

The Political Science discipline is committed to providing an engaging and supportive learning environment for diverse students. Students will receive a comprehensive education in Political Science, including several electives spanning different subfields of the discipline, which are also transferable. We support students who are pursuing transfer readiness, general education and lifelong learning. Our goal is to engage students in critical thinking as to the causes, effects and implications of political phenomena, ideologies and institutions. We also have the goal of creating opportunities for learning in and outside of the classroom to meet these objectives.

[\(click here for information on how to create a mission statement\)](#)

Does your discipline have at least one degree or certificate associated with it?
No

Are any of your programs vocational (CTE/CE)?
No

Please list the names and positions of everyone who helped to complete this document.
ADT in Political Science shall be offered, beginning fall semester, 2020.

Full-time faculty (FTEF)
2.0

Part-time faculty (FTEF)
2.27

Classified & other staff positions that support this discipline

ADA (Sheila Atkins - A significant asset with scheduling, planning of Political Economy Days event and general ADA duties).

Additional hourly staff that support this discipline and/or department

NA

PROGRAM INFORMATION

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Begin this section by reviewing the Program Review reports for courses and programs in TracDat. All active course and program outcomes should be systematically assessed over a 3-year cycle.

- **Program** = Leads to a degree or certificate
- **Discipline** = A group of courses within a discipline

*Programs will be able to complete program completion and outcome questions.

Depending on the degree or transfer goals of our students, they have the choice of three different GE pathways:

- [Associate Degree GE Requirements](#)
- [CSU GE Requirements](#)
- [IGETC Requirements](#)

Palomar College has identified a set of General Education/Institutional Learning Outcomes, which represent the overall set of abilities and qualities a student graduating from Palomar should possess. [Click here for a link to Palomar's GE/ILOs.](#)

The Chancellor's Office Vision for Success stresses the importance of reducing equity gaps through faster improvements of underrepresented groups.

ACCJC also requires that colleges establish institutional and program level standards in the area of success rates. These standards represent the lowest success rate deemed acceptable by the College. In other words, if you were to notice a drop below the rate, you would seek further information to examine why the drop occurred and strategies to address the rate.

[Click on this link to review the course success rates \(A, B, C, or Credit\) for your discipline.](#)

In this section we will identify a course success rate standards and a stretch goal (what you would like to move toward) for programs.

Course Success Rates by gender, age, ethnicity, special population, location, and modality (You can access the Student Equity Plan on the SSEC website <https://www2.palomar.edu/pages/ssec/>)

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE SUCCESS AND RETENTION

What is your program's standard for Discipline COURSE Success Rate?

70.0%

Why did you choose this standard?

We believe in upholding the standards set by the institution, and as such, we will continue to strive to meet these standards. That having been said, there are factors that make meeting this standard a challenge. Because POSC is a core gen. ed. discipline, more students will enroll in our classrooms than non-gen ed classes, as well as a number of other gen ed disciplines. POSC is a discipline that requires higher levels of writing, inquiry & analysis and critical thinking than many other disciplines. Moreover, the number of at-risk students in our classes have increased in recent years. They have lower prep levels with regard to reading and writing levels, as well as limited prior exposure to the rigors of critical thinking and analysis that POSC requires. The overall pass rate is at 61.0%, down from last year's 65%. It is certainly possible that with reduced enrollments (and repeatability restrictions), those students who accounted for much of the failing rates are, quite simply, no longer enrolled in our courses, nor at the college. Of course, our tremendous faculty in POSC are not a factor in declining rates, as the teaching methods, material covered, requirements have held at the same high standard of standards and evaluations. Greater efforts have been made to reach out to our diverse student population and engage at-risk students - students that have remedial reading, writing skills, and face considerable economic and time management challenges, such as those from low income areas, facing food and housing insecurity, full time jobs, raising families and running households, etc.. POSC faculty has had numerous meetings and conversations about diversifying our pedagogical strategies to complement and surround the lecture style, such as visual and Socratic/discussion modalities. Use of real world examples and case studies have been used to enrich course concepts. That having been said, these numbers are below the college's standard. While this is clearly concerning, it is difficult to pinpoint a particular cause of this. After all, course content, COR's and curriculum remain the same. The POSC faculty roster remain the same. Again, POSC faculty shall continue to meet and engage in dialogue as to how to improve the passage rate, even as we acknowledge that socio-economic factors and the fair number of students who are remedial in reading and writing skills mitigate pedagogical efforts by the faculty.

What is your Stretch goal for COURSE success rates?

70.0%

How did you decide upon the goal?

Until such time that the enrollment management model improves or is changed, class cancellations are reduced, and students have greater access to courses, it seems unlikely and unreasonable that those success rates will increase. Also, the difficulties and challenges mentioned in the previous section hold.

COURSE OUTCOMES

How have you improved course-level assessment methods since the last PRP?

The POSC program have sought to improve assessment by facilitating the goals of AB 705, in terms of its emphasis of language and mathematics. While POSC does not have any quantitative research methods courses, we have sought to apply math and numbers, in terms of public policy analysis and assessments (POSC 102), public opinion polling and data (POSC 101) and some Game Theory (POSC 110). And as always, the POSC program has emphasized writing - submission of papers, essay-centered exams, among other requirements, so as to have the students demonstrate both descriptive and analytical skills of a wide array of concepts, ideas and theories in political science.

Summarize the major findings of your course outcomes assessments.

We found evidence that selected SLO topics saw improvement, in terms of increased comprehension of these topics. Students have demonstrated better grasping of a number of the SLO topics used for assessment, due to said topics being emphasized more during instruction. That said, the decreased success rates show that other areas - the reduced number of students who submit papers, online assignments, for example - can probably account for this decline. Again, when students have a substantial amount of socio-economic insecurity, time management challenges and limited classes choices (due to our current enrollment management model and class cancellations), thus resulting in classes that are not necessarily optimal for their schedules, these factors will lead to overall reductions in success rates, even though there is qualitative evidence of students grasping selected concepts for assessment cycles.

This section is intentionally blank for annual PRPs. Please click "Next" to continue.

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Program Goals

In the previous sections, you identified opportunities for improvement. Using these opportunities, develop 3-year [SMART goals](#) for your department. Goals should be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-Specific. Ensure your goals align with the mission of your department and/or [the College's strategic plan](#).

Please list all discipline goals for this three-year planning cycle. [Click here for previous PRPs and goal information](#).

Goals

Goal 1

Brief Description

Create ADT degree in political science.

Is this a new or existing goal?

New

How will you complete this goal?

The degree program has already been approved by the IPC and launched. Approval from articulation officer, dept. chair, SBS dean and VPI at local district level has already occurred or pending. Approval at state chancellor level is pending.

Outcome(s) expected (qualitative/quantitative)

Our political science majors will now take all of our program/curriculum courses and substantially increase their chances of transfer acceptance to a CSU.

How does this goal align with your department mission statement, the college strategic plan, and/or Guided Pathways?

With students taking all of our program's courses, they will now more richly experience the whole depth and richness of the political science discipline - receiving a sampler of all the major subfields beyond American govt., including international relations, comparative politics, political theory and public/constitutional law, among others. Students will have a greater in-depth look at different political phenomena and truly be transfer ready.

Expected Goal Completion Date

8/24/2020

Goal 2

Brief Description

Maintain and expand Legal Studies program.

Is this a new or existing goal?

Existing

Goal Status

Ongoing

How will you complete this goal?

LS-POSC 120 (Intro to Law) already cross-listed for spring, 2017.

LS-POSC 240 (Civil Liberties & Constitutional Law) already cross listed, starting in fall, 2017. We plan to have Ethics in Law course in the implementation cross-listing process. The time line goal for implementation is between spring, 2020 to fall, 2020.

Outcome(s) expected (qualitative/quantitative)

Greater accessibility and flexibility for our students to meet GE requirements. More opportunity to both law school aspirants and Political Science majors, in terms of academic exposure and greater number of options for their field of study.

How does this goal align with your department mission statement, the college strategic plan, and/or Guided Pathways?

Increasing students' skill set in critical thinking. Many of our political science majors, if not the majority of our majors, aspire to go to law school and enter the legal profession. The LS portion of our program will help prepare them for a career in law by exposing them to principles of law, subfields of law (public law, const. law, etc.), as well as increasing their skills set requisite of future law students.

Expected Goal Completion Date

1/18/2021

Goal 3

Brief Description

Continue success and support for Political Economy Days

Is this a new or existing goal?

Existing

Goal Status

Ongoing

How will you complete this goal?

Continue divisional and dept. support for the program. Two biggest lecture venues have been secured each semester with support of the President's Office (SSC - 1) and our divisional dean, as she has successfully worked with the fellow divisional dept. that holds classes in MD - 157. Both the division and other department have been cooperative and supportive in the continued success of the lecture series. In particular, VPI Kahn and Dean Ly have been consistent and enthusiastic supporters of Political Economy Days, as well as the Political Science program and its goals, in general.

Outcome(s) expected (qualitative/quantitative)

We shall continue to invite top experts and academics in their social-science-related fields to present very critical, timely and germane topics that expose our students to upper division research, real world applications of what they get in class and read about in the news, as well as inspiration to further pursue their studies.

How does this goal align with your department mission statement, the college strategic plan, and /or Guided Pathways?

The program exposes students to samplers of their future upper division studies and, thus, helps increase their transfer preparation and readiness. It also exposes students to the political science/social science subfields and expands possible options as to what type of major-related career they can possibly pursue.

Expected Goal Completion Date

STAFFING AND RESOURCE NEEDS

Instructions

1. Refer to [Strategic Plan](#).
2. See [Data](#).
3. See career info (In PRP)

Are you requesting additional full-time faculty?
No

Are you requesting additional Staff, CAST or AA?
No

RESOURCE REQUESTS AND BUDGET ALLOCATION REVIEW

Budget Analysis: This section should be completed by department chairs by the end of September.

Are there areas in your budget where there has been a historical surplus (See three year trend)?
No

Are there processes that need to be examined to ensure we are being the most efficient with funding?
No

Are there ongoing needs in your department budget that you currently do not have the resources for?
No

Do you have non-general fund sources of funding?
No

One Time Needs

For more information about funding sources available, see [IELM BLOCK GRANT, LOTTERY PERKINS AND STRONG WORKFORCE GUIDELINES](#) (on the left menu of the web page.)

Please check with your department chair on the availability for this cycle.

Do you have one-time funding requests?
No

Review

Chair Review

Chair Comments

Chair Name

Chair Sign Date

Dean Review

Strengths and successes of the discipline as evidenced by the data and analysis:

The discipline successfully created a new ADT in Political Science that will be offered starting in Fall 20. Political Economy Days Lecture continues to engage our students in relevant and important topics outside of the traditional classroom.

Areas of Concern, if any:

SLO assessments are very general and course success rates could use further analysis for areas to improve on.

Recommendations for improvement:

As Political Science continues its online offerings, it is important that the courses are well organized and align to the CVC-OEI Course Design Rubric. Online teaching training and professional development is important as we look to increase online student success.

Dean Name

Pearl Ly

Dean Sign Date

12/18/2019

IPC Review

Strengths and successes of the discipline as evidenced by the data and analysis:

Areas of Concern, if any:

Recommendations for improvement:

IPC Reviewer(s)

IPC Review Date

Vice President Review

Strengths and successes of the discipline as evidenced by the data and analysis:

Looking FWD to new ADT launch- good summary here.

Areas of Concern, if any:

Recommendations for improvement:

Vice President Name

Jack S. Kahn Ph.D.

Vice President Sign Date

2/2/2020