## Mission Statement

The major in Political Science provides students with the opportunity to acquire a broad education that will equip them to adapt to a wide variety of careers. The program is designed to encourage the analysis of theories, institutions, and processes of political systems in the context provided by the social sciences; to stimulate a grasp of the broad sweep of political science as a discipline; to develop a continuing and responsible interest in political activity and public affairs; to provide the opportunity to acquire a fundamental understanding of political science as a basis for citizenship, a career in government, or professional study and service; and to stimulate the qualified student’s interest in graduate study in political science.

### Politics and International Relations

### Outcomes

FIU graduates should be able to achieve the following:

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<tr>
<th>Content Knowledge and Skills (including Technology)</th>
<th>Direct Measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content Knowledge</strong></td>
<td><strong>Procedure:</strong></td>
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</table>
| Graduates will understand the role of power, the structure and functioning of governmental institutions, policy-making processes, the foundational theory of western political thought, and the basic dynamics of international affairs. | **Assessment Instrument:** Closed-ended Exam  
**Assessment Method:** Embedded questions in a 10-question multiple choice test will be used to assess the competency in content for senior political science majors. Assessments will take place in courses with current seniors enrolled.  
The questions will cover the following content knowledge learning objectives:  
• demonstrating an understanding of the role of power, its distribution, and utilization in shaping political outcomes  
• demonstrating an understanding of the structure and functioning of governmental institutions – both domestic and comparative  
• demonstrating an understanding of law/policy and the policy making process  
• demonstrating an understanding of the foundational theory of western political thought, and  
• demonstrating an understanding of the basic dynamics of international affairs.  
**Course Assessed:**  
**Sampling:** A sample of 10 percent of graduating students [or a minimum of 10 students (whichever is higher) will be assessed.  
**Minimum Criteria for Success:** Graduates will attain 7 points or higher on subject knowledge. |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Critical Thinking</th>
<th>Direct Measures</th>
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<td><strong>Critical Thinking</strong></td>
<td><strong>Procedure:</strong></td>
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| Graduates will be able to present a problem statement, use empirical reasoning, include structural factors, and reflect assessment of the analyzed topic. | **Assessment Instrument:** Rubric  
**Assessment Method:** A two-member faculty panel will use a rubric describing 4 indicators of critical thinking (5-point rating scale; 20 point maximum) to assess the research paper.  
- Identifies & summarizes the problem/question  
- Analyzes & examines  
- Assesses the influence of context  
- Constructs & interprets  
A mean score for each student will be obtained from the faculty ratings.  
**Course Assessed:** |
**Communication (Oral or Written)**

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<th>Communication Skills - Written</th>
<th>Direct Measures</th>
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<td><strong>Sampling:</strong> A sample of 10 percent or a minimum of 10 students, whichever is greater of graduating students will be assessed. <strong>Minimum Criteria for Success:</strong> Graduates will attain a minimum score of 12 on critical thinking.</td>
<td><strong>Procedure:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Graduates will write demonstrating appropriate content development, organization, language, and conventions. | **Assessment Instrument:** Rubric  
**Assessment Method:** A two-member faculty panel will use a rubric describing 4 indicators of written communication skills (5-point rating scale; 20 point maximum) to assess the research paper required in the capstone course:  
- Content & development  
- Organization  
- Language  
- Conventions  
A mean score for each student will be obtained from the faculty ratings.  
**Course Assessed:**  
**Sampling:** A sample of 10 percent or 10 students, whichever was greater of graduating students will be assessed. **Minimum Criteria for Success:** Graduates will attain a minimum score of 12 points on the written communication rubric. |

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<tr>
<th>Communication Skills - Oral</th>
<th>Procedure:</th>
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| Graduates will be able to conduct oral presentations demonstrating appropriate subject knowledge, organization, connection to audience, delivery, and use of technology. | **Assessment Instrument:** Rubric  
**Assessment Method:** A two-member faculty panel will use a rubric describing 5 indicators of oral communication skills (5-point rating scale; 20 point maximum) to assess the oral presentation for:  
- Subject knowledge  
- Organization  
- Connection to audience  
- Delivery  
A mean score for each student will be obtained from the faculty ratings.  
**Course Assessed:**  
**Sampling:** A sample of 10 percent or 10 students, whichever is greater of graduating students will be assessed. **Minimum Criteria for Success:** Graduates will attain a minimum of 15 points on the oral communication rubric. |