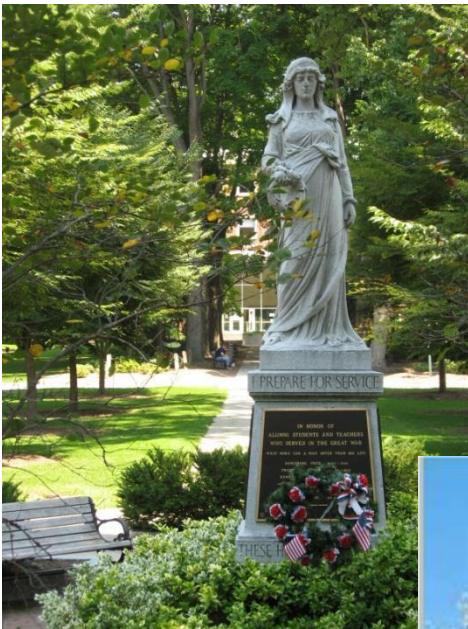


EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT PLAN



Department of Political
Science and Economics
Revised September 2018

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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

As a part of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and East Stroudsburg University, the Department of Political Science and Economics has developed this document to explain the Department's mission, structure, programs, student learning outcomes, and assessment plan. The overall purpose is to ensure a collective, systematic, and continuous process of evaluation which is used by the Department faculty to modify, develop, and improve the quality of our educational programs.

The American Political Science Association (APSA) and the National Association of Schools of Public Administration and Affairs (NASPAA) both recognize that "there is a national push for student learning assessment in higher education."¹ While higher education has always had some form of student assessment, it has recently merged with public sector performance measurement as a means of not only assessing the student, but also the higher education institution. Consequently, higher education accrediting bodies have made the requirement for departments to have student learning outcomes, assessment plans, and evidence of implementation of those plans as part of their accreditation standards. As with all Pennsylvania State System Schools, East Stroudsburg University receives its accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which requires assessment plans and assessment of student learning outcomes in accreditation standard V.

PURPOSE

The Department recognizes that the political, institutional, and pedagogical emphasis on assessment in higher education is able to provide data to inform the improvement and development of the department's degree programs. The assessment results will demonstrate how the department is achieving university and departmental goals, objectives, and student learning outcomes. Furthermore, over a period of time, the assessment results have the potential of providing trends in input, output, and outcome data which are useful for informing departmental decision-making.

¹ Kenneth Campbell (2007) "2006 Workshop for Department Chairs – Planning for Assessment and Accountability Issues" PS: Political Science & Politics, January, 99.

DEPARTMENTAL INTENT

Assessment is a vital part of teaching, and the faculty of the Department of Political Science and Economics have always conducted assessments within each of their courses, which have served as a measure of an individual student's ability to learn and understand the course material. The Department's faculty members are professionals and experts in their area of the discipline. Consequently, it is the Department's intent to ensure that no part of this assessment plan interfere with how a faculty member teaches a course.

Since the primary responsibility of the Department's faculty is to teach their assigned courses, with other responsibilities including student advising, university service, and maintain an active research agenda; the Department recognizes that the assessment plan should not create an additional burden on the faculty members, that may hinder the professional completion of any of our primary responsibilities. Therefore, this assessment plan is designed in such a manner so as not to produce any additional administrative burdens, or any interruptions in the classroom.

A recognized risk of organizational assessment process is that it develops from being a tool to help the organization to the entire focus of an organization. The assessment process is only a tool.

The Department's intent for the assessment plan is to:

1. focus on the Department as a whole.
2. provide meaningful and useful data for Departmental decision-making.
3. utilize existing data collection tools and systems.

EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

VISION STATEMENT

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania will be the first choice for students seeking a comprehensive university with a small college climate distinguished by innovation and tradition where they will learn to serve, lead, and succeed in a global society.

MISSION STATEMENT

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania will provide:

- challenging and contemporary undergraduate and graduate curricula that engage and equip students to critically appraise and apply knowledge in their lives and chosen field of study.
- a learning community that promotes diversity and views teaching as the university's primary focus.
- varied opportunities for student and faculty research, creative endeavors, and involvement in public service.
- leadership and service in the educational, cultural, and economic development of the region.

VALUES STATEMENT

We are committed to the principles of intellectual integrity, freedom of expression, the fair and equal treatment of all, good citizenship, environmental stewardship, and accountability for our actions and the resources entrusted to us.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon earning an undergraduate degree from East Stroudsburg University, students will value creativity, diversity, ethical behavior, and professionalism. They will have achieved college-level proficiency in the following university-wide student learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of their roles as citizens of a diverse, global society.
2. Utilize critical thinking skills.
3. Communicate orally, in writing, and through other formats.
4. Demonstrate information literacy and technological skills.
5. Apply scientific reasoning to solve problems.
6. Create and critique various forms of artistic expression.

7. Understand various models for healthy development of the whole person.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

MISSION STATEMENT

East Stroudsburg University's College of Arts and Sciences is a dynamic learning community. The College provides fundamental support to the university's mission by preparing students for life-long intellectual, personal, and ethical growth, by offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs, and by hosting the general education program.

The College of Arts and Sciences offers rigorous courses that promote critical, analytical, and creative thinking; effective communication; responsible citizenship; aesthetic and cultural literacy; quantitative proficiency; scientific reasoning; and the effective use of technology.

The College of Arts and Sciences recognizes excellence in teaching as central to our mission. The College is committed to providing a rich educational environment by supporting pedagogical effectiveness and by providing opportunities for faculty to pursue, as well as mentor students in, undergraduate and graduate research, scholarship, and creative endeavors.

VALUES STATEMENT

East Stroudsburg University's College of Arts & Science is committed to the pursuit and advancement of knowledge by fostering the following values:

- communication and analytical skills;
- logical, creative, and critical thinking;
- civic engagement and environmental stewardship;
- personal growth, integrity, and excellence; and
- civility, respect, honesty, and appreciation of diversity.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS

MISSION STATEMENT

Steeped in the theoretical and professional knowledge and skills of the political science/public administration and economics disciplines, the Department of Political Science and Economics of East Stroudsburg University educates undergraduate and graduate students in a liberal arts tradition in order to prepare them for professional service and/or further graduate studies.

VISION STATEMENT

The Department of Political Science and Economics of East Stroudsburg University will be the first choice for students in the region seeking a political science, public administration or economics education, which prepares undergraduate and graduate students for public service and leadership in international agencies, or national, state, local governments, or non-profit organizations.

CORE VALUES

The Department of Political Science and Economics of East Stroudsburg University focuses on providing a liberal arts education to promote the whole person who is able to critically think and act ethically in an ever-changing environment. The Department is committed to

Academics: Developing students who possess the skills and ability to think critically about the values, ideas, and issues involving individuals, governments, and non-profits, and are able to effectively communicate their thoughts to others.

Diversity: Promoting diversity in every area of the department to foster a learning environment encompassing a wide variety of cultural, ethnically, theoretical, and methodological approaches which prepare students for service in an ever changing multicultural and interdependent environment.

Ethics: Developing students who possess personal, academic, and professional ethical integrity.

Service: Developing students who are prepared to serve others professionally and academically locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally.

ORGANIZATION

The Department of Political Science and Economics is housed within the College of Arts and Sciences. As of this writing, the Department consists of nine full-time faculty – five full professors and four associate professors. Typically, the department also averages three to four part-time instructors. Administration of the department is performed by a department chair, two graduate program coordinators, and one clerical staff.

The Department is responsible for providing courses to all majors as part of the University's General Education Program. Additionally, some political science and economics courses are requirements in other degree programs such as Primary and Secondary Education, Secondary Education-Social Studies, Criminal Justice, Women Studies, Business Management and Public Health Administration.

The Department is responsible for four degree programs:

- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science;
- Bachelor of Arts in Economics;
- Master of Arts in Political Science; and
- Master of Science in Management and Leadership – Public Administration.

UNDERGRADUATE

All majors are required to complete the University's General Education program.

The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science is a 36 to 39 credit hour program, with four distinct tracks:

- **AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS TRACK**
- **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT TRACK**
- **PRE-LAW TRACK**
- **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION TRACK**

The Bachelor of Arts in Economics is a 39-credit hour program, with three distinct concentrations:

- **FINANCE**
- **GENERAL ECONOMICS**
- **GLOBAL ECONOMICS**

Additionally, undergraduates can choose from three minors: Economics, Political Science or Pre-Law. All three minors are 18 credits.

GRADUATE

Master of Arts in Political Science

The Master of Arts in Political Science is a 30-credit program, which comprises a systematic study of the theory and practice of politics at various levels both domestic and internationally. All students are required to complete Introduction to Research, Thesis I, and Thesis II; and, take at least one elective in each of the following areas: American Politics and Public Administration, International Relations, Comparative Government and Regional Studies, and Political Theory; the remaining electives may be taken in any area that the student wishes to pursue. Additionally, student must successful pass a comprehensive exam. The program is used by students to professionally advance public sector employment or to pursue further graduate education and law school.

Master of Science in Management and Leadership – Public Administration

The Master of Science in Management and Leadership – Public Administration (MML-PA) is a 36-credit program done in conjunction with the Department of Business Management. The MML-PA provides a pre-professional and professional development program for the purpose of graduating competent, responsible, and ethical public servants committed to governmental and non-profit public service. Students are required to take: Organizational Behavior, Organizational Strategy, Organizational Leadership, Organizational Control Systems, Introduction to Research Methods, Public Administration: Theory, Scope, and Methods, Problems in Public Administration, Public Budgeting and Financial Management, Public Personnel Administration, and Field Experience and Internship. ~~For the remaining six credits~~ Students can choose ~~among~~ from any Political Science, Business Management, Economics, ~~of~~ or Health Administration graduate courses for the remaining six credits. Additionally, all students are required to complete a comprehensive exam.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS' STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

1. Students will demonstrate a broad-based knowledge of the four subfields of political science: American Government and Public Administration, Political Theory, Comparative Government, and International Relations.
2. Students will demonstrate an ability to conduct political science research involving the development of research questions, gathering and collecting data, quantitative and qualitative analysis, and presenting the results in a logical and professional manner.
3. Students will demonstrate an ability to critically think about political science/public administration issues.
4. Students will demonstrate a knowledge of the professional competencies necessary for public or non-profit service locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.
5. Students will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively through their written work and oral presentations.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS

1. Identify and assess the cost-benefit of economic activities of the household, business, government and global organizations, and the interrelationship among them.
2. Apply Critical Quantitative and Problem-Solving skills to analyze contemporary economic issues.
3. Communicate economic ideas in oral and written forms using graphs, tables and other tools.
4. Understand core economic terminology, concepts, theories and empirical results; demonstrate a working knowledge of key economic information and statistical databases; utilize technological skills to acquire and analyze data.
5. Identify economic issues and problems of interest; conduct literature review; gather and analyze necessary data; interpret statistical results to gain insights into economic behavior; propose possible solution and policy implications.

MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

1. Students will demonstrate an in-depth of knowledge of the schools of thought, theories, models, and issues within the political science discipline.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of multiple research designs and methodologies, both quantitative and qualitative and have the ability to conduct political science research involving the development of research questions, a research design, gathering and collecting data, quantitative and qualitative analysis, and presenting the results in a logical and professional manner.
3. Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills in understanding and evaluating theories, ideas, and issues across the four subfields of political science: American Government and Public Administration, Political Theory, Comparative Government, and International Relations.
4. Students will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively through their written work and oral presentations.

Master of Science in Management and Leadership – Public Administration

1. Students will be able to demonstrate the leadership, managerial, and organizational competencies and skills necessary to effectively manage change, quality, productivity, and diversity in public or non-profit organizations.
2. Students will demonstrate the research skills necessary to analyze and evaluate public policies and programs and professionally communicate the findings within the context of local, state, national, or international governance.
3. Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills in understanding and evaluating theories, models, techniques, ideas and issues in the public administration discipline, and synthesize the knowledge to form an intellectual basis for professional practice.
4. Students will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively through their written work.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS ASSESSMENT PLAN

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Department of Political Science and Economics' Assessment Plan is to provide meaningful and useful data for departmental decision-making focused on accomplishing the departmental mission, goals, and objectives. The Assessment Plan primarily uses existing assessment tools and data on the university and departmental level. Additionally, the implementation of this assessment plan is meant to minimize requirements on the departmental faculty and will not disrupt any course instruction.

ASSESSMENT TOOLS

The Department of Political Science and Economics' Assessment Plan uses the following assessment tools in the following programs:

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political Science Knowledge Exam: The department will develop a knowledge exam, which assesses general knowledge of the political science discipline across four subfields: American Government and Public Administration, Political Theory, Comparative Government, and International Relations. The exam will be issued to all incoming freshman majoring in Political Science and issued to all seniors prior to graduating. The exam includes essay and multiple-choice question components. The exam is administered every Fall for new students and every Spring for graduating seniors.

Senior Seminar: All political science majors are required to take Senior Seminar. This course examines major theories and problems in politics. The final paper in senior seminar will assess their ability to conduct research, think critically, and communicate effectively. Students are required to present their research to departmental students and faculty as they would at an academic conference.

Survey of Recent Graduates: All graduates will be surveyed five months after graduation as to their employment or graduate school/law school enrollment and educational experience. The survey is conducted via email. **This survey is under development.**

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS

Quantitative Proficiency (Econ 415): All students declaring a major in economics will complete a quantitative requirement. This requirement will be fulfilled by completing Econometrics (Econ 415). In addition to assessing the modeling skills of students, the instructor will evaluate the research, writing, and critical thinking skills of students in the context of the methodology of economics and the utilization of contemporary software.

Senior Seminar: All students with a major in economics are required to complete a Senior Seminar. The seminar examines major theories and problems in economic analyses. The seminar also assesses the ability of students to conduct research, think critically, and communicate effectively.

Economics Proficiency Exam: The department will develop a proficiency exam in economics, which will evaluate general knowledge of economics in three subfields: Finance, General Economics, and Global/International Economics. The exam will be issued to all seniors prior to graduating. The exam will also be a mixture of essay and multiple-choice questions, which will be administered every Fall for the graduating seniors.

Survey of Recent Graduates: After graduation, and with a minimum of about one or two years of post-graduate experience, graduates of the economics program are surveyed by electronic means to obtain information about their academic standing, employment status, and needs of graduating and prospective students. A much more structured survey is currently being developed by the new department.

MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Comprehensive Exams: All M.A. students are required to pass a comprehensive exam before starting to write the master's thesis. The students write research proposals and present their proposals to two full-time political science faculty members. The students' written proposals, presentations, and answers to the questions of faculty members are evaluated during their presentations. The overall student evaluation consists of three levels: Excellent Pass; Pass; and, Fail. If a student fails a comprehensive exam, the student can revise his/her research proposal for presentation of the proposal at a later date.

Thesis: All M.A. students are required to conduct a major independent research project and write a thesis on the project and successfully conduct an oral defense of the thesis. A three-member thesis committee, consisting of a

thesis chair, the graduate coordinator, and another full-time political science faculty member evaluates the written document and the defense. The thesis is evaluated on a three-level scale: Excellent Pass, Pass, and Fail. If a student fails the thesis, the student may make the necessary corrections to the thesis, and if time permits, reschedule the defense once more in a semester. The East Stroudsburg University Graduate Guidelines outline the process and the timeline for submission of the approved thesis, as well as the formatting and printing requirements.

Survey of Recent Graduates: All graduates will be surveyed five months after graduation as to their employment or graduate school/law school enrollment and educational experience. The survey is conducted via email. **This survey is under development.**

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP-PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Comprehensive Exam: During the last semester, all MML-PA students take a comprehensive knowledge exam, which assesses their professional knowledge in the core competency areas of public administration: public management and leadership, intergovernmental management; organizational theory, public budgeting and financial management, and human resource management.

POLS 570 Paper: All MML-PA students must complete an original research project as part of the course requirements in POLS 570-Introduction to Research. It is evaluated by the instructor using a locally developed rubric, which assesses their research, critical thinking and writing skills.

Internship: All students in the MML-PA program must complete an internship. The faculty supervisor will evaluate the student's internship performance using a locally developed rubric that assesses their achievement of professional competencies.

Survey of Recent Graduates: All graduates will be surveyed five months after graduation as to their employment or graduate school/law school enrollment and educational experience. The survey is conducted via email. **This survey is under development.**

OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT TOOLS

TABLE 1
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Outcome	POLS Knowledge Test	Senior Seminar	Post-Graduate Survey
SLO 1 - Broad-based knowledge			
SLO 2 - Conduct Political Science Research			
SLO 3 - Ability to critically think			
SLO 4 - Professional competencies			
SLO 5 - Communicate effectively			

**TABLE 2
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS**

Outcome	Senior Seminar	Quantitative Proficiency	Economics Proficiency Exam	Post-Grad Survey
SLO 1 (Econ) -Costs/Benefits				
SLO 2 (Econ)-Apply Problem Solving Skills				
SLO 3 (Econ) - Communicate Economic Ideas				
SLO 4 (Econ)- Professional competencies [Understand core concepts]				
SLO 5 (Econ)-Identify Economic Issues				

**TABLE 3
MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Outcome	Comprehensive Exams	Thesis	POLS 570 Paper	Post-Graduate Survey
SLO1(MA) – In-depth Knowledge				
SLO 2 (MA) - Research				
SLO 3 (MA) – Critical Thinking				
SLO 4 (MA) – Communicate Effectively				
SLO 5 (MA) – Prepared professionally and academically				

Table 4
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP – PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION

Outcome	Knowledge Exam	570 Paper	Internship	Survey of Graduates
SLO1(MS) – Knowledge of Field & Professional Competencies				
SLO 2 (MS) - Research				
SLO 3 (MS) – Critical Thinking				
SLO 4 (MS) – Communicate Effectively				