

# Framingham State University

## Program Assessment Plan for Political Science (2021-2026)

Assessment Coordinator:	Dr. Joseph Coelho
Department Chair:	Dr. Joseph Coelho
Date Created/Updated:	November 20, 2022

### 1) PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Political Science, Law and Global Studies offers majors in both Political Science and Global Studies to students seeking their Bachelor of Arts degree at Framingham State University. Through interdisciplinary study and a wide range of courses in International Relations, Global Studies, Law, American Politics and Public Administration, students are given the opportunity to follow their interests and develop as citizens at the local, national and international level. Students studying Political Science or Global studies will develop the skills needed to analyze problems through research, present ideas through written and oral communication, and develop their own perspective on what it means to be an active citizen. These skills will prepare students for graduate or law school, working in government or non-governmental organizations, and related careers in management and communication.

### 2) PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Gain an understanding of political processes, systems, and practices in the United States and abroad as they exist today.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of fundamental concepts, principles, and theories in political science.
3. Apply various political science theoretical frameworks to contemporary case studies.
4. Develop the ability to communicate effectively and clearly in written and oral form.
5. Develop a competence in research capabilities to include formulating a research question, identifying and using appropriate data and information, and developing arguments supported by evidence that properly cites sources.
6. Evaluate current political issues and their impact upon the contemporary political environment.

### 3) LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Program Learning Objectives						
Course	PLO # 1	PLO #2	PLO #3	PLO #4	PLO #5	PLO #6
POSC 110: Introduction to American Politics	S	S	M	S	N	S
POSC 120: Introduction to World Politics	S	S	M	M	N	L
POSC 316: United States Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties	S	S	M	M	N	L
POSC 320: Comparative Political Systems	S	S	S	S	M	L
POSC 337: Legislative Politics and Policy	S	S	S	S	M	S
POSC 341: The Presidency: Politics and Administration	S	S	S	S	L	S
POSC 425: Seminar in Political Science	S	S	L	S	S	S

Key:

N = None.

L = Limited

M= Moderate

S = Substantial

#### 4) ASSESSMENT METHODS AND TIMELINE

Indicate when and how program learning objectives will be assessed. Refer to the curriculum map to draft a student learning objective assessment timeline. It is recommended that you outline a 5-year plan for assessment in which you will assess all of your PLOs.

<b>Academic Years</b>	<b>Objectives(s)</b>	<b>Course(s)</b>	<b>Assessment Evidence (direct/indirect)</b>	<b>Assessment Method</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
WHEN	WHICH Objectives(s) will you examine in each period (Use number)?	WHERE will you look for evidence of student learning (i.e., list course(s) that will generate evidence for each objective.	WHAT student work or other evidence will you examine in order to assess each objective?	HOW will you look at the evidence; what means will you use to analyze the evidence collected for each objective	WHO will oversee collecting, analyzing, reporting, results? List names or titles.
<b>Year 1 2021-2022</b>	Assessment planning	Finalize which courses to look at for assessment of each learning objective	Determine for each course what work to look at	Develop assessment means (pre/post-tests, rubrics, etc.)	J. Coelho (Chair of Political Science)
<b>Year 2 2022-2023</b>	LO #1	POSC 110 & POSC 120	Direct evidence	Pre-test and post-test	J. Coelho (Chair of Political Science)
<b>Year 3 2023-2024</b>	LO #5	POSC 425	Direct: Research Project (POSC 425)	Rubric	J. Coelho (Chair of Political Science)
<b>Year 4 2024-2025</b>	LOs #2, 3, & 4	POSC 120, POSC 110, POSC 337, 341	Direct: Paper on applying theories of IR to simulation (POSC120)  Paper on applying information on American political systems to contemporary issue before Congress and President	Rubrics	Subcommittee Chair of Political Science

			<p>(POSC110)</p> <p>Paper on application of legislative principles in Senate simulation (POSC 337)</p> <p>Paper on case study of presidential decision making in recent presidency (POSC 341)</p>		
<b>Year 5 2025-2026</b>	LO #6	POSC 337, POSC 341	<p>Direct: Paper on Congressional delegations and political environment in current Congress (POSC 337)</p> <p>Paper on Presidential power in contemporary political issues (POSC 341)</p>	Rubrics	Subcommittee Chair of Political Science

**Program Size and Sampling Technique**

**a. Number of students who graduate each year.**

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Majors	47	47	69	69	65
Graduates	15	9	20	8	16

**b. Describe the sampling technique to be used**

TBD

**5) PLAN FOR ANALYZING RESULTS**

- **List who is responsible for distributing results and who will receive results?**

The Assessment Coordinator will distribute results to all members of the department and to the FSU Office of Assessment

- **State how and at which forums discussion of results will take place.**

Results will be discussed during regular department meetings; during meetings of the subcommittee on program review

**6) DISTRIBUTION.** The program will distribute or publish these items in the following ways:

<i>ITEM</i>	<i>Distribution Method</i>					
	<b>FSU Catalog</b> (provide section title)	<b>Website</b> (provide URL)	<b>Annual Reports</b>	<b>Brochures</b>	<b>Course Syllabi</b>	<b>Other</b> (please describe, e.g. department meeting, advising session)
Program Mission	No	Yes, URL TBD	Yes	No	No	Dept Meeting; Advising Sessions, Dept bulletin boards
Program Learning Objectives	No	<a href="https://www.framingham.edu/academics/colleges/social-and-behavioral-sciences/political-science/learning-objectives/">https://www.framingham.edu/academics/colleges/social-and-behavioral-sciences/political-science/learning-objectives/</a>	Yes	No	No	Dept Meeting; Advising Sessions, Dept bulletin boards

Learning Opportunities (Curriculum Map)	No	Yes, URL TBD	Yes	No	No	Dept Meeting; Advising Sessions, Dept bulletin boards
Assessment Plan	No	Yes, URL TBD	Yes	No	No	Dept Meeting; Advising Sessions, Dept bulletin boards

**Attach any rubrics or instrumentation that you plan to use for assessment of Program Learning Objectives**

<sup>1</sup> If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Dr. Mark Nicholas, Executive Director of Institutional Assessment at [mnicholas1@framingham.edu](mailto:mnicholas1@framingham.edu) or 508-626-4670

<sup>2</sup> Accredited programs can provide supplemental documents that indicate the answers to these questions as long as specific page references are provided in each cell of the tables in this form. When the answers are not accessible in that way, please cut and paste into your assessment plan.

*Credits: This Template was developed using ideas from templates developed at University of Rhode Island and University of Hawaii in Manoa.*