

**Annual Key Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements**  
**Department of Politics**  
**Master of Arts Program in Politics**  
**Doctoral Program in Politics**

**Key Assessment Findings AY 2010-2011**

During the academic year 2010-2011, a total of ten students took the on-campus M.A. comprehensive examination in Politics. Nine students passed the M.A. comprehensive examination and one student failed the examination. Two of the ten students passed the examination with “Honors.”

During the academic year 2010-2011, four students took the doctoral comprehensive examination. All of these students passed the doctoral examination. Three of the four students passed the doctoral examination with “Honors.” Four students took the doctoral minor comprehensive examination. All four of these students passed the doctoral minor comprehensive examination. One of the four students passed the examination with “Honors.”

***Master’s level and Ph.D. level comprehensive exam: Rubric and Key Assessment Findings***

Each professor was asked to grade each question of the comprehensive MA examination in accordance with the Politics Department’s comprehensive exam rubric, which is based on the following 3 point scale: “exceeds expectations” (Pass with Honors) 3 points, “meets expectations” (Pass) 2 points, and “below expectations” (Fail) 1 point.

**Table of Results**

**Student Learning Assessment Rubric**

**Department of Politics On Campus Program**

**Graduate Comprehensive Examination Results**

**AY 2010-2011**

Trait	Level						Total N
	Exceeding Expectations (3pts)		Meeting Expectations (2pts)		Below Expectations (1pt)		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>1) Critical Thinking /Analytical Skills</b>	7	39	10	56	1	5	18
<b>2) Knowledge of Literature</b>	7	38	8	45	3	17	18
<b>3) Clear/Effective Writing</b>	8	43	10	57	0	0	18

## **Curricular Improvements**

Performance on the comprehensive examinations was satisfactory on both the M.A. and Ph.D. levels. Seventeen out of the eighteen students (95%) taking the M.A. and Ph.D. Comprehensive examinations passed the exams. The high pass rate indicates that graduate students in the Department of Politics have been adequately prepared for passing the examinations. However, since three examinations were below expectations on knowledge of the literature, faculty will emphasize the importance of reading all of the required books on the graduate reading lists.