

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

Key Assessment Findings AY 2011-2012

During the academic year 2011-2012, a total of eleven students took the on-campus M.A. comprehensive examination in Politics. Ten students passed the M.A. comprehensive examination and one student failed the examination. One of the eleven students passed the examination with “Honors.”

During the academic year 2011-2012, sixteen students took the doctoral comprehensive examination. All of these students passed the doctoral examination. Two of the sixteen students passed the doctoral examination with “Honors.” Five students took the doctoral minor comprehensive examination. All five of these students passed the doctoral minor comprehensive examination. One of the five 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
M.A. in Politics Comprehensive Examination Results
AY 2011-2012 Key Assessment Findings

Trait	Level						Mean	SD	Total N
	Exceeding Expectations (3pts)		Meeting Expectations (2pts)		Below Expectations (1pt)				
	N	%	N	%	N	%			
1) Critical Thinking /Analytical Skills	5	45.45%	5	45.45%	1	9.1%	2.36	0.67	11
2) Knowledge of Literature	3	27.3%	7	63.6%	1	9.1%	2.18	0.60	11
3) Clear/Effective Writing	3	27.3%	7	63.6%	1	9.1%	2.18	0.60	11

Table of Results
Student Learning Assessment Rubric
Department of Politics On-campus program
Doctoral Comprehensive Examination Results
AY 2011-2012 Key Assessment Findings

Trait	Level						Mean	SD	Total N
	Exceeding Expectations (3pts)		Meeting Expectations (2pts)		Below Expectations (1pt)				
	N	%	N	%	N	%			
1) Critical Thinking /Analytical Skills	9	56.25%	7	43.25%	0	0%	2.56	0.51	16
2) Knowledge of Literature	7	43.75%	9	56.25%	0	0%	2.44	0.51	16
3) Clear/Effective Writing	6	37.5%	10	62.5%	0	0%	2.38	0.5	16

Curricular Improvements

Performance on the comprehensive examinations was satisfactory on both the M.A. and Ph.D. levels. Thirty-one out of the thirty-two students (96.8%) 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.