

Department of Political Science

Office or Department of Academic Affairs

Administrative Unit Assessment

Year Reporting: FY 20 (July 2019-July 2020)

Department and Assessment Report Information

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Departmental Mission and Goals

The mission and goals of the department should be consistent over a 5 year period, although some institutional changes may necessitate and prompt a change in mission or goals for specific departments. In this section, you will report the mission statement for your department as well as the long term goals (5 year range) for the department.

What is the mission statement for this department/area? Your mission should explain why the department/area exists and who it serves.	The mission of the Department of Political Science is to be an organization of faculty and staff who are committed to excellence and integrity and whose collective goal is service to others through positive contributions that enrich and impact our region in general and students in particular. We mentor students pursuing studies in political science at the baccalaureate degree level, preparing students to meet the growing demand for research, analytical, and critical thinking skills in Central Georgia and beyond. We also support the general education mission of the university by teaching introductory courses in political science in the core curriculum.
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What are the goals for this department? These should be the "big things" the department/area intends to accomplish within 5 years.	1) Build enrollment in the bachelor of science in political science program so it is among the five largest liberal arts and sciences bachelor's programs offered by the university* by the 2024–25 academic year. 2) Implement the bachelor of science in political science program on the Macon campus while, if sufficient faculty resources are available, continuing to offer the program in Cochran.
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	<p>3) Increase enrollment in the minors and the certificate program offered by the department.</p> <p>4) Identify and implement opportunities for collaboration with other departments, both within and outside the School of Education and Behavioral Sciences.</p> <p>5) Improve student retention, progression, and graduation in the core curriculum courses offered by the department.</p> <p>6) Optimize scheduling to reduce the number of underutilized sections and expenditures on inter-campus travel.</p> <p>7) Increase the diversity of the department's full-time faculty.</p>
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Objectives

Each year, every department should identify objectives the department hopes to accomplish in the next year. These should align with departmental goals and the MGA strategic plan. In the next section you will be reporting on the objectives you set and whether or not you achieved them in FY20. Later in the document you will report on objectives you hope to accomplish in the coming fiscal year, FY21.

Objective 1

Objective 1: What was this department's first objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.	The Department of Political Science will increase the total enrollment in the bachelor of science in political science program from 10 enrolled students in spring 2019 to 30 enrolled students in spring 2020.
Objective 1: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)	Headcount of enrolled majors from waa093c
Objective 1: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	Net gain of 20 students.
Objective 1: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)	Net gain of 23 students.
Objective 1: Did your department meet this objective?	The department exceeded this objective.
Objective 1: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	The department was able to successfully grow enrollment largely through organic growth with limited promotion, even though we were unable to follow through on planned recruitment activities in spring 2020. Further increases in enrollment, however, will likely require more extensive promotion and recruitment efforts; the department is working with MarComm to produce program materials, and we plan to initiate an aggressive schedule of student recruitment events in the 2020-21 academic year for current and prospective students.

Objective 2

Objective 2: What was this department's second objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.	The Department of Political Science will propose a new baccalaureate minor in pre-law and have it approved for implementation in fall 2020.
Objective 2: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)	Was the minor proposed and approved?
Objective 2: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	Propose the minor and have it approved.
Objective 2: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)	100% (minor was proposed and approved).
Objective 2: Did your department meet this objective?	The department met this objective.
Objective 2: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	We successfully navigated the curriculum approval process to have our proposal adopted, with amendments to include an appropriate new course in legal writing offered by the Department of English. We anticipate recruiting students actively into this minor starting in fall 2020.

Objective 3

Objective 3: What was this department's third objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.	The Department of Political Science will reduce the combined aggregate DFW rate in POLS 1101 for the full terms this academic year to 0.95 times its combined rate in the full terms the previous academic year.
Objective 3: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)	DFW rates calculated based on final grades posted in SWORDS.
Objective 3: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	Combined DFW rate of 29.6%
Objective 3: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)	Combined DFW rate of 25.4%
Objective 3: Did your department meet this objective?	The department exceeded this objective.
Objective 3: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	The department successfully implemented a number of teaching strategies that resulted in a reduction in the percentage of POLS 1101 students with a DFW for full-session classes from 31.1% in 2018-19 to 25.4% in 2019-20, including the use of lower-cost textbooks and broadening departmental participation in the Gateways to Completion project. We plan further efforts to reduce DFW rates in 2020-21.

Objective 4

<p>Objective 4: What was this department's fourth objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.</p>	<p>The Department of Political Science will increase the combined ratio of seats filled to seats offered per section in POLS 1101 for the full terms this academic year over its rate in the full terms the previous academic year by two percentage points, from 76.9% to 78.9%, while maintaining the current section cap of 35 students per section (or the room size, whatever is less). NOTE: The correct utilization figure for AY 2018-19 was 75.2%, so the target for AY 2019-20 should have been 77.2%, not 78.9%.</p>
<p>Objective 4: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)</p>	<p>Section capacity usage from wrg144 reports.</p>
<p>Objective 4: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)</p>	<p>77.2% utilization</p>
<p>Objective 4: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)</p>	<p>76.2% utilization</p>
<p>Objective 4: Did your department meet this objective?</p>	<p>The department did not meet this objective.</p>
<p>Objective 4: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?</p>	<p>It was difficult to anticipate future changes in student demand across campuses; a greater shift of student demand to online courses away from face-to-face courses by non-residential students took place than was expected, leading to relatively lower utilization in spring 2020 than expected, most notably in Macon. As a result we have adjusted the total number of face-to-face course sections downward to try to better meet this goal in AY 2020-21.</p>

Future Plans

<p>Please identify and detail three to four measurable objectives for the next fiscal year. In listing the objectives, please use the format shown in these examples. 1) The Department of X will improve services levels by 5% as measured by our satisfaction survey. 2) The department of X will provide training in ABC for at least 73 MGA faculty and staff.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The Department of Political Science will increase the total enrollment in the bachelor of science in political science program from 33 enrolled students in spring 2020 to 56 enrolled students in spring 2021.2) The Department of Political Science will redesign the Sustainability Policy Studies minor to facilitate student completion and attract greater enrollment, in collaboration with other departments.3) The Department of Political Science will reduce the combined aggregate DFW rate in POLS 1101 for the full terms this academic year to 0.95 times its combined rate in the full terms the previous academic year.4) The Department of Political Science will increase the combined ratio of seats filled to seats offered per section in POLS 1101 for the full terms this academic year over its rate in the full terms the previous academic year by two percentage points, while maintaining the current section cap of 35 students per section (or the room size, whatever is less).
<p>Based on this assessment, please share your thoughts on the current status and future direction of this department or area.</p>	<p>As a new department with a relatively new bachelor's program, we have an opportunity to build a department that is simultaneously effective, collegial, and efficient. We continue to rely excessively on overloads—with all tenure-line faculty typically teaching overloads every semester—and, to a lesser extent, shared and part-time faculty to meet the demand for general education courses even though we are limiting courses supporting the major and our minors to the bare essentials for student progression. Our department is also excessively top-heavy, with 50% of the department's faculty being full professors and all but one tenure-line faculty member holding tenure, with that faculty member likely to be granted tenure after this academic year. Accordingly we require at least two additional tenure-track faculty lines to discontinue our routine use of overloads,</p>

	<p>increase the diversity of the department's faculty, bring in greater expertise in areas such as international relations and comparative politics that would support a future Africa/African Diaspora Studies certificate/minor, reduce inter-campus travel, and better support the new minor in pre-law.</p>
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Open Box for Additional Comments

<p>Open Text Box For Assessment Comments:</p>	<p>* The following bachelors programs as of AY 2019–20 are classified as liberal arts and sciences programs for the purpose of this goal: biology, contemporary musicianship, criminal justice, English, history, interdisciplinary studies (B.A.), interdisciplinary studies (B.S.), mathematics, new media and communications, political science, and psychology. Pre-professional programs are omitted. For objectives 3 and 4, partial term courses, course sections offered via eCore, and course sections taught on high school campuses are excluded from these rate calculations.</p>
<p>If the COVID-19 pandemic impacted this assessment cycle, please provide specific details below.</p>	<p>No impact anticipated.</p>

