

Department of Political Science

Division of the University: Academic Affairs

Administrative Unit Assessment Year Reporting: FY22 (July 2021 – June 2022)

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Department 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.

<p>6. What is the mission statement for this department/area? Your mission should explain why the department/area exists and who it serves.</p>	<p>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, interdisciplinary studies, and related fields 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.</p>
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<p>7. What are the goals for this department? These should be the "big things" the department/area intends to accomplish within 5 years.</p>	<p>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. 3) Increase enrollment in the minors and the certificate program offered by the department.</p>
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	<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 intercampus 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 FY22. Later in the document you will report on objectives you hope to accomplish in the coming fiscal year, FY23.

Objective 1

8. 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 will work with the Office of Graduate Studies and other departments/schools to develop a proposal for a master's degree in professional leadership or a related area.
9. Objective 1: Detail specifically how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)	Was this accomplished?
10. Objective 1: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	Accomplish the objective.
11. Objective 1: Provide details for your target performance level established (i.e., accreditation requirement, past performance data, peer program review, etc.)	It's a binary outcome.
12. 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)	The objective was not accomplished.
13. Objective 1: Did your department meet this objective?	The department did not meet this objective.
14. Objective 1: Improvement Plans and Evidence of changes based on an analysis of the results: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	A master's program in professional leadership was in fact created, but our department was not made aware of its development and was not invited to contribute any courses or faculty expertise to its development or implementation.

Objective 2

<p>15. Objective 2: What was this department's second objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.</p>	<p>The department will increase the total enrollment in the bachelor of science in political science program from 31 enrolled students in spring 2021 to 50 enrolled students in spring 2022.</p>
<p>16. Objective 2: Detail specifically how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)</p>	<p>Headcount of enrolled majors from waa093c.</p>
<p>17. Objective 2: What was your target outcome for this objective? (i.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)</p>	<p>Enrollment growth of 19 students.</p>
<p>18. Objective 2: Provide details for your target performance level established (i.e., accreditation requirement, past performance data, peer program review, etc.)</p>	<p>Need to meet USG standards for program productivity.</p>
<p>19. 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)</p>	<p>Enrollment decline of 6 students.</p>
<p>20. Objective 2: Did your department meet this objective?</p>	<p>The department did not meet this objective.</p>
<p>21. Objective 2: Improvement Plans and Evidence of changes based on an analysis of the results: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?</p>	<p>The department was adversely affected by the departure due to retirement and resignation of two tenured faculty members (both on the Cochran campus) and the inability to replace one of the two faculty lines. In 2022-23 we will develop additional recruitment strategies for majors, including increased promotion of career opportunities and long-term return on investment.</p>

Objective 3

22. 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 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.
23. 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.
24. Objective 3: What was your target outcome for this objective? (i.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	DFW rate of 27.3%
25. Objective 4: Provide details for your target performance level established (i.e., accreditation requirement, past performance data, peer program review, etc.)	Improvement in student progression and graduation per USG initiatives.
26. 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)	DFW rate of 23.6%
27. Objective 2: Did your department meet this objective?	The department exceeded this objective.
28. Objective 2: Improvement Plans and Evidence of changes based on an analysis of the results: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	We will continue to refine and adapt our existing strategies to hopefully continue this trend moving forward. We may be participating in a supplemental instruction pilot that could lead to further improvement in this area.

Objective 4

<p>29. 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 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>
<p>30. 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 wrgl44 reports.</p>
<p>31. Objective 4: What was your target outcome for this objective? (i.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)</p>	<p>66.4% utilization.</p>
<p>32. Objective 4: Provide details for your target performance level established (i.e., accreditation requirement, past performance data, peer program review, etc.)</p>	<p>Imperative for responsible use of resources.</p>
<p>33. 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>55.2% utilization</p>
<p>34. Objective 4: Did your department meet this objective?</p>	<p>The department did not meet this objective.</p>
<p>35. Objective 4: Improvement Plans and Evidence of changes based on an analysis of the results: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?</p>	<p>The department offered a large number of face-to-face sections of POLS 1101 in response to USG and university-level policy decisions that emphasized the importance of rebuilding face-to-face enrollment; however, many students still seemed to be reluctant to return to a "normal" campus experience despite the availability of effective COVID-19 vaccines. Without this mandate, the department would have reduced the number of face-to-face sections offered and reduced its reliance on remote part-time faculty for online sections that did exhibit high utilization rates.</p>

Future Plans

<p>36. 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 will increase the number of students majoring in political science by at least 20% from the previous academic year.2. The department will increase the number of graduates of the political science degree program this academic year by at least 20% from the previous academic year.3. The department 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 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).
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Open Box for Assessment Comments

<p>37. In this field, please document the overall use of assessment results for continuous improvement of this department area (consider the past, present, and future and specifically address these in your narrative).</p>	<p>Assessment results are one element in a holistic effort to promote continuous improvement in the department's performance in delivering its programs to students. As our department is severely under-resourced compared to other departments with a substantial presence in the core curriculum, assessment results are useful in focusing the limited resources we have in areas where they will make the most obvious positive impacts.</p>
<p>38. Optional Open Text Box for Assessment Comments:</p>	<p>Improvement in the department's performance has been severely hindered by excessive reliance on part-time faculty and overloads to deliver courses since the department's inception in July 2019. These factors have made it difficult for full-time faculty to find time for the service and related activities needed to support departmental improvements.</p>

42. If the COVID-19 pandemic impacted this assessment cycle, please provide specific details below.	COVID-19 led to mismatching classroom capacity with student enrollment demand and adversely affected efforts to build enrollment in the major.
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MGA’s Strategic Plan

39. Based on your goals and objectives listed above please indicate their connection with MGA's Strategic Plan (https://www.mga.edu/about/docs/Strategic_Plan_Overall_DB.pdf) by checking all associated and relevant Imperatives / Strategies from the list below. (Check all the apply)	Grow Enrollment with Purpose 1. Expand and enrich the face to face student experience, Build Shared Culture 6. Sustain financial health through resourceful fiscal management
40. Please indicate which of the following actions you have taken because of the 2021/2022 Assessment Cycle (Note: These actions are documented in reports, memos, emails, meeting minutes, or other directives within the reporting area) (Check all the apply)	Process Changes: Improve, Expand, Refine, Enhance, Discontinue, etc. Operational Processes

Other

41. Please indicate (if appropriate) any local, state, or national initiatives (academic or otherwise) that are influential in the operations, or goals, and objectives of your unit. (Complete College Georgia, USG High Impact Practice Initiative, LEAP, USG Momentum Year, Low-Cost No-Cost Books, etc.)	LEAP, USG Momentum Year, Low-Cost/No-Cost Books, Affordable Learning Georgia
43. Mindset Update (Academic Deans ONLY)	

