Political Science Certificate

Knowledge & Skills

Goal Description:

The 18-hour Certificate program aims to serve high school teachers seeking to improve their professional credentials and individuals wanting to teach in the community colleges.

Providing Department: Political Science Certificate

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

MA-level understanding of at least one of the major subfields

Learning Objective Description:

Upon completion of the 18-hour Certificate in Political Science program, students will be able to evaluate political theories and discuss the significant research in one of the program's three major subfields: American Politics, Comparative Politics, or International Relations.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

90% with A or B in Core Seminars

Indicator Description:

Students in the 18-hour Certificate program must complete one of the following required courses: POLS 5330 (American Politics), POLS 5371 (Comparative Politics), or POLS 5373 (International Relations). We expect over 90% of 18-hour Certificate students to complete their required course with either an A or B.

Criterion Description:

At least 90% of students in the 18-hour Certificate Program will pass either POLS 5330, POLS 5371 or POLS 5373 earning a grade of either A or a B.

Findings Description:

In Fall 2022 and Spring 2023, the department offered POLS 5330, POLS 5371 and POLS 5373.

- In Fall 2022 POLS 5330 -- five 18-hour certificate students completed the course; 100% earned an A or B
- In Fall 2022 POLS 5371 -- one 18-hour certificate student completed the course; 100% earned an A or B
- In Spring 2023 POLS 5330 -- four 18-hour certificate students completed the course; 100% earned an A or B
- In Spring 2023 POLS 5371 -- four 18-hour certificate students completed the course; 100% earned an A or B
- In Spring 2023 POLS 5373 -- two 18-hour certificate students completed the course; 100% earned an A or B

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Action - Core Seminars

Action Description:

We will continue to measure CERT students' knowledge and skills by assessing whether at least 90% complete their required core course -- either POLS 5330, POLS 5371, or POLS 5373 -- with either an A or B.

New Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

Closing Summary

For the coming 2022-23 academic year, we have the following plans for the CERT program:

1. Continue to work on establishing specific goals, underlying objectives, KPIs, etc. for the CERT program, now that it is a separate item in the Assessment Cycle.
2. Work with the coordinator of the Lone Star Plus-18 Partnership program to review and evaluate all SHSU Political Science graduate course designators as eligible electives for the CERT program curriculum.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

In 2022-2023, we made good progress on #1, with more work to do in the coming AY. We also completed #2, and worked to open up the range of elective options students in the 18-hour CERT program may take to complete their degree plans.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

For the coming 2023-2024 academic year, we have the following plans for the CERT program:

1. Continue to work on establishing specific goals, underlying objectives, KPIs, etc. for the CERT program.
2. We are specifically interested in trying to establish and measure learning objectives, particularly in the core courses.