

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:

Of the 9 students newly enrolled in the CERT during SU23-SP24, 7 earned an A or a B in either POLS 5330, POLS 5371, or POLS 5373 during either the FA23 term or the SP24 term. The remaining 2 newly enrolled CERT students have yet to take any of these courses but have maintained GPAs of at least 3.0.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Revise learning objective goal of the certificate program

Action Description:

The current learning objective goal is not consistent with recent changes to the program requirements. We now require all certificate students to take POLS 5301 Scope and Methods. We need to revise the learning objective goal to more closely match the curriculum requirements. In addition, this revised goal should allow us to come up with better indicators, as the current indicators (grade distributions in various courses) are inadequate.

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 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.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the time and energy of the graduate faculty was devoted to the roll-out of the portfolio exercise for the MA program. This exercise is not a requirement of the CERT program. As such, we did not accomplish the specific goals above. However, we did wind up moving POLS 5301 into the required curriculum (the only required course) of the CERT. This will allow us to move forward creating more specific learning objectives and more refined measurements for those objectives.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**Closing Summary:**

In 2023-2024, we changed the curriculum for the CERT program and now require students to take POLS 5301. As such, over the next year, we will refine the language of our learning objectives and develop indicators that are more solid measurements of those objectives. This is consistent with the actions established in this plan:

- The current learning objective goal is not consistent with recent changes to the program requirements. We now require all certificate students to take POLS 5301 Scope and Methods. We need to revise the learning objective goal to more closely match the curriculum requirements. In addition, this revised goal should allow us to come up with better indicators, as the current indicators (grade distributions in various courses) are inadequate.

The department chair and CERT program director will work together on these goals.