

**CSULA POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
MASTERS OF ARTS PROGRAM
ASSESSMENT PLAN**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Master of Arts program provides graduate students with an advanced understanding of the main subfields in the discipline of political science, ensuring mastery of established theories and findings, and the ability to analyze current challenges and controversies. Graduates will be trained to engage in theoretically-based and methodologically-sound academic research, to be thoughtful contributors to political debates and policy discussions, and to transmit their knowledge to others via teaching, writing, and scholarship.

PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLO)

1. Students will develop in-depth understanding of one or more subfields in political science.
2. Students will be able to analyze complex political questions utilizing discipline-based theories.
3. Students will develop necessary skills for conducting and executing research on the political process.
4. Students will learn to integrate and present research findings.
5. Students will be able to situate and analyze political activity in local, national, and global contexts.
6. Students will be able to apply the findings of advanced political science research to contemporary issues and debates.

**ALIGNMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES AND
PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

California State University, Los Angeles students expand and deepen their interdisciplinary and general understanding of the world, enhance their critical skills, and take responsibility for a lifetime of learning, and as graduates become individuals who engage, enhance, and contribute to democratic society.

Knowledge: Mastery of Content and Processes of Inquiry

CSULA graduates have a strong knowledge base in their academic major and can use powerful processes of inquiry in a range of disciplines. They engage contemporary and enduring questions with an understanding of the complexities of human cultures and the physical and natural world and are ready to put their knowledge into action to address contemporary issues.

POLS SLO 1: Students will develop in-depth understanding of one or more subfields in political science.

POLS SLO 2: Students will be able to analyze complex political questions utilizing discipline-based theories.

Proficiency: Intellectual Skills

CSULA graduates are equipped to actively participate in democratic society. They are critical thinkers who make use of quantitative and qualitative reasoning. They have the ability to find, use, evaluate and process information in order to engage in complex decision-making. They read critically, speak and write clearly and thoughtfully and communicate effectively.

POLS SLO 3: Students will develop necessary skills for conducting and executing research on the political process.

POLS SLO 4: Students will learn to integrate and present research findings.

Place and Community: Urban and Global Mission

CSULA graduates are engaged individuals who have contributed to the multi-lingual and multiethnic communities that constitute Los Angeles and the world of the future. They are aware of how their actions impact society and the environment, and they strive to make socially responsible decisions. They are community builders sensitive to the needs of diverse individuals and groups and committed to renewing the communities in which they live.

POLS SLO 5: Students will be able to situate and analyze political activity in local, national, and global contexts.

Transformation: Integrative Learning

CSULA graduates integrate academic learning with life. They engage in community, professional, creative, research and scholarly projects that lead to changes in their sense of self and understanding of their worlds. Graduates integrate their knowledge, skills and experience to address complex and contemporary issues and act ethically as leaders for the 21st century.

POLS SLO 6: Students will be able to apply the findings of advanced political science research to contemporary issues and debates.

ASSESSMENT TOOLS

The MA program engages in assessment of student learning every semester, with the primary focus on students completing their comprehensive exam and finishing the program. Exiting students are asked to take a survey on their experience, including questions about the relevance and applicability of their coursework to the designated program goals. The comprehensive exam, taken by almost all students, provides a useful measure of multiple student learning outcomes. Joint faculty assessment of student papers at designated intervals also serves as a measure of SLOs, and the basis for instructional, programmatic, or curricular improvements.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOME	Academic year/semester when PLO is assessed	What is your tentative plan for assessing this PLO? (For example, which assessments will be used, which courses will be examined?)
1. In-depth understanding of subfield	Every semester	1. Comprehensive exam. 2. Individual faculty will assess performance in graduate seminars, and use results to improve instruction.
2. Analyze complex political questions	Every semester	1. Comprehensive exam (or thesis). 2. Individual faculty will assess performance in graduate seminars, and use results to improve instruction.
3. Necessary research skills.	Every semester	1. Comprehensive exam (or thesis). 2. Individual faculty will assess performance in graduate seminars, and use results to improve instruction. 3. Joint faculty assessment of randomly selected student papers
4. Integrate theoretical and substantive materials	Every semester	1. Comprehensive exam (or thesis). 2. Individual faculty will assess performance in graduate seminars, and use results to improve instruction. 3. Joint faculty assessment of randomly selected student papers
5. Analyze political activity in local, national, and global contexts	Every semester	1. Comprehensive exam (or thesis). 2. Individual faculty will assess performance in graduate seminars, and use results to improve instruction. 3. MA graduate exit survey. Results will be used to make improvements to curriculum and instruction.
6. Apply findings to contemporary issues and debates.	Every semester	1. Comprehensive exam (or thesis). 2. Individual faculty will assess performance in graduate seminars, and use results to improve instruction. 3. MA graduate exit survey. Results will be used to make improvements to curriculum and instruction.

CURRICULUM GRID

Course #	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5	Outcome 6
5040	X	X	X	X	X	X
5050	X	X	X	X	X	X
5090	X	X				X
5100	X	X				X

5260	X	X	X	X	X	X
5270	X	X	X	X	X	X
5310	X	X	X	X	X	X
5440	X	X				
5500	X	X	X	X	X	X
5960	X	X	X	X	X	X
5980	X	X	X	X	X	X
5990	X	X	X	X	X	X
4000	X	X	X	X	X	X
4030	X	X	X	X	X	X
4040	X	X	X	X	X	X
4060	X	X	X	X	X	X
4080	X	X	X	X		X
4090	X	X	X	X	X	X
4140	X	X	X	X	X	X
4180	X	X	X	X	X	X
4250	X	X	X	X	X	X
4260	X	X	X	X	X	X
4270	X	X	X	X	X	X
4290	X	X	X	X	X	X
4310	X	X	X	X	X	X
4330	X	X				X
4350	X	X				X
4370	X	X				X
4410	X	X	X	X	X	X
4460	X	X	X	X	X	X
4500	X	X	X	X	X	X
4510	X	X	X	X	X	X
4520	X	X	X	X	X	X
4530	X	X	X	X	X	X
4540	X	X	X	X	X	X

4580	X	X	X	X	X	X
4590	X	X	X	X	X	X
PHIL 4100	X	X				X
PHIL 4130	X	X				X
PHIL 5440	X	X				X