

Department of Political Science

University Plan III

Political Science is the study of how societies govern themselves and interact with other societies. Our objective is to better understand these processes so that the decisions of future leaders will better serve the needs of society and enhance the probability of achieving the leaders' goals. In short, we are training the next generation of leaders for our communities. The general goal of the Department of Political Science is to build depth in the curriculum by continuing to provide high-quality courses for students in our undergraduate, MPA, and MA programs; for students in programs related to Political Science, such as International Studies and Criminal Justice; and for the University Studies curriculum.

Implementation of 2003 Academic Plan Action Items:

- 1. Expanded involvement in internationalization.** Status: on-going.
Accomplishments: continued cooperation with International Studies Program on curriculum and class schedules; continued student engagement through the Model UN program and courses involving international travel (e.g., Dr. Stephanie Anderson's course on the European Union included a visit to EU headquarters in Brussels); a cooperative arrangement was entered into with Diponegoro University of Indonesia for graduate student education; engagement with Stellenbosch University in South Africa continued with exchanges of visits by faculty of the two universities and a planned visit by UW students in Spring 2009; hosting faculty from Croatia and Kyrgyzstan under the U.S. Department of State's Junior Faculty Development Program; guest speakers from abroad visiting UW included EU Ambassador to the U.S. John Bruton, Malawi Ambassador to the U.S. Ellen Shippe, EU officer Kyriakos Revelas, and Professor Andrew Williams of the University of St. Andrews; and faculty members visited and conducted research involving Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa.
- 2. NASPAA accreditation for the Master of Public Administration program.** Status: on-going. Accomplishments: curriculum development to meet NASPAA standards now in place; required self-study has been drafted and is being revised.
- 3. Simpson Fund Millennium Initiative.** Status: on-going. In 2003 the department believed the Millennium Initiative to be near its end. Instead, this program, with its successful courses taught by Dr. Peter Simpson and guest speakers arranged by retired Senator Alan Simpson, continues to provide enriching instruction and to bring notable speakers to campus, such as former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell and former Secretary of State James A. Baker III. The department has developed an outline for future programs once Dr. Simpson and Senator Simpson decide to disengage.
- 4. Expand the Washington Internship Program.** Status: on hold awaiting completion of expansion of the Simpson Fund under the Simpson Family Programs for Political and Cultural Leadership. Accomplishments: the department continues sending one to three student interns to the offices of Wyoming's congressional delegation under a limited program and maintains

contact with representatives of Washington-based organizations with which UW could establish cooperative relationships.

5. Replace retiring faculty. Status: on-going. Accomplishments: Two of three faculty members who retired or died have been replaced. Concerns: the department continues to request to fill the third position (necessary for instruction in and accreditation for the MPA program) and there is concern about the effects of two looming retirements on offerings of course with international foci.

6. Develop the Master of Arts program. Status: on-going. Accomplishments: changes in advising procedures and curriculum structure to enhance the completion rate have been implemented; a proseminar limited to MA students has been implemented to enhance the graduate education experience; recruitment efforts both domestically and internationally have increased; new actions are being proposed as part of UP III. Concerns: recruitment efforts are hindered by an insufficient number of graduate assistantships available to award.

7. Implementation of student learning assessment plans. Status: on-going. Accomplishments: program goals have been established for the three degree programs; procedures for measuring student achievement are being implemented.

Links to Creation of the Future 2 and A&S Planning Themes

The degree programs of the Department of Political Science are central to the major themes delineated in *Creation of the Future 2* and expressed by the College of Arts and Sciences:

1. Cultivating Public Leadership (Motif 5 and A&S Themes #1 and #6). Activities of the Department of Political Science contributing to the cultivation of leadership include guest speakers with experience in national, state, and local government; internships in national and state government; educating leaders in state and local government through the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program; educating students (both Political Science majors and undergraduates through the University Studies Program's "V" requirement) in the role of government in society and avenues of effective citizen engagement in the political process; preparing students for Law School and careers in law through undergraduate and graduate courses and programs of study; and using the expertise of the faculty to serve the state through consultation with governmental agencies, civic organizations, news media, and other institutions. **Associated action items:** POLS-1, POLS-2, POLS-3, POLS-4, POLS-5, POLS-6, POLS-7, POLS-8, POLS-9.

2. Depth and Excellence in Graduate and Undergraduate Education (Motifs 1 and 4, and A&S Theme #3). The MPA and Master of Arts in Political Science (MA) programs offer students opportunities to prepare for or advance careers in public service and to prepare for further studies leading to J.D. or Ph.D. degrees. Both programs can build from solid foundations to provide enhanced educational opportunities to greater numbers of graduate students. At the undergraduate level, Political Science has the seventh largest number of undergraduate majors in A&S, is a major contributor to the International Studies major (one-half of the A&S courses approved for the program's core requirements are offered by Political Science), contributes to the Department of Criminal Justice, and is a major participant in University Studies and the A&S core curriculum: 45 % of Fall 2007 enrollments in University Studies "V" classes were in POLS

1000 and 62% of our enrollments in internationally-oriented freshman and sophomore classes, which satisfy “G” and “NW” requirements, have majors other than Political Science or International Studies. Continuing to meet these demands is represented in the department’s “general goals” and the goal of expanding faculty exchange opportunities that broaden faculty members’ experiences and expertise that in turn improve the quality of their teaching. An important element is expanding the number of graduate assistantships available within the department. Beyond the obvious benefit of more graduate students in our classes, additional graduate assistantships also benefit undergraduate education by enabling the department to offer more lower-division courses with weekly discussion sessions that provide students more interactive learning environments. *Associated action items:* POLS-1, POLS-2, POLS-3, POLS-4, POLS-5, POLS-7, POLS-8, POLS-9.

3. Access to Higher Education (Motif 3). The MPA program, as a pioneer in distance education both at UW and for public administration programs nationwide, remains among the largest graduate programs provided through the Outreach School and is the only A&S graduate program offered through the Outreach School. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that 24% of Wyoming’s non-farm employment is in the governmental sector. Thus, the MPA program, which educates managers and policy analysts for public agencies, is vital to a “profession critical to the state and region.” Additionally, both the MPA and MA programs have attraction to international students who seek access to higher education in the United States to improve the civic societies of their homelands. Expanding the number of available graduate assistantships is a key component in achieving these goals. *Associated action items:* POLS-1, POLS-3, POLS-4.

4. Internationalization of the Curriculum (Motif 3 and A&S Theme #2). Political Science’s focus on governing societies and interaction among societies is not limited to the United States but includes examinations of governmental systems of other countries and interactions between the United States and other nations. This is achieved through courses fulfilling requirements for majors in Political Science and International Studies, courses fulfilling the Global (G) requirement of USP and Non-Western requirement of the A&S core curriculum, study abroad opportunities, participation in programs such as the Model United Nations, recruitment of graduate students from abroad, and faculty engagement in international research. *Associated action items:* POLS-1, POLS-2, POLS-3, POLS-7, POLS-8, POLS-9.

Action items

Beyond our general goal of providing high-quality courses for our students and students in related programs, the Department of Political Science proposes a specific set of actions to enhance the educational opportunities provided to our students and the UW community:

- POLS-1 Continue developing programs similar to the Simpson Fund Millennium Initiative to enhance civic education, explore issues relating to Wyoming's history and culture, and explore issues crucial to the region through implementation of the Simpson Family Programs for Political and Cultural Leadership.

- POLS-2 Expand involvement in internationalization of UW through courses in the subfields of comparative politics and international relations, which are central to the curricula of both Political Science and International Studies.
- POLS-3 Enhance graduate education in both the Master of Public Administration (MPA) and Master of Arts in Political Science (MA) degrees through increased graduate assistantships and expanded graduate course offerings.
- POLS-4 Attain accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) for the MPA program.
- POLS-5 Implement a joint JD/MA program similar to the current joint JD/MPA program.
- POLS-6 Participate in the policy analysis clearinghouse proposed in *Creation of the Future 2*.
- POLS-7 Expand the Washington internship program to create a program appealing to students from majors across A&S and majors from other colleges.
- POLS-8 Expand opportunities for faculty development and scholarly interactions through exchanges with foreign institutions similar to those currently established with Stellenbosch University, the University of St. Andrews, the Brussels School of International Studies, and Diponegoro University through acquisition of external funding.
- POLS-9 Expand opportunities for faculty development and scholarly interactions through cooperation with the International Studies Program's proposed Institute for Global Affairs, the Department of History's proposed Center for European Studies, and the Humanities Institute proposed in *Creation of the Future 2*.

Appendix - Implementation Schedule for Political Science Action Items

Action item	Ongoing	2009	2010	2011	2012
POLS-1	Simpson Fund activities & expansion				
POLS-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation with INST on curriculum • Replace retiring international faculty (Latin America and Asia scholars) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPM request for Middle East scholar (links with POLS-3) • Seek MUN funding (links with POLS-1) 	Conduct search for Middle East scholar		
POLS-3	Seek additional graduate assistantships	Initiate MA and MPA program reviews			Complete implementation from 2009 review
POLS-4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete required self-study • Secure accreditation process funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit application • NASPAA site visit 	Implement curricular changes (if needed)	
POLS-5		Initiate discussions with Law School		Begin enrolling JD/MA students	
POLS-6		CPM request for policy analyst (links to POLS-3, POLS-4)	Conduct search for policy analyst (links to POLS-3, POLS-4)	Begin expanded policy course offerings (links to POLS-3, POLS-4)	
POLS-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions with DC institutions • Fund raising (links with POLS-1) 				
POLS-8	Expand international exchanges				
POLS-9	Cooperate with UW units				