

Dear Politics and International Relations Department Chair,

As you know from the Department Chairs Meeting on November 12, the Assessment Committee is asking all departments to revise their Student Assessment Plans so that we have greater consistency across departments. We need to do this for our report to the Higher Learning Commission in June 2020, so we are asking you to complete this process by March 1. In many cases, this will just involve reformatting what you already have. We have provided you with multiple templates and examples that can be used to complete this process [here](#).

The Assessment Committee has reviewed your current Student Assessment Plan. We found that in most areas, your Plan approaches or meets our standards. However, there are a few areas that need attention. First, your student learning goals need to be slightly revised in order to be clearly student-focused. For example, Learning Goal 4 could be revised to say “Upon successful completion of the requirements for the Political Science and International Relations Major, students will be able to identify [understand? Explain? Recognize?] the inter- and multi-disciplinary nature of the study of political, economic, and social phenomena.” Your Curriculum Mapping is good and does not need to be revised at this time. We found that your direct and indirect assessment measures meet our standards. However, as you can see from the template, we would like more detail about which specific elements of your assessment tools relate to each learning goal. We want you to include the tools that you will use for direct and indirect assessment (i.e. specific student survey questions and specific references to learning goals on rubrics) in your SAP. Finally, you do not currently have a Cycle of assessment. Please use the template provided in the materials to indicate which goals will be assessed in what years, and using what methods.

SAP: Learning Goals	Department has clear learning goals with outcomes consistently stated in measurable and observable terms.	Learning goals are present, but only some are stated in measurable and observable terms.	Learning goals are stated but none are written in measurable and observable terms or plan offers no student learning goals.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Meets/Exceeds Standards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approaches Standards	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Attention
SAP: Curriculum Mapping	It is easy to determine which courses complete each skill and at what level.	It takes some effort to determine which courses complete each skill and/or at what level.	It is unclear which courses complete each skill, or no curriculum map was provided.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets/Exceeds Standards	<input type="checkbox"/> Approaches Standards	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Attention
SAP: Indirect, Direct, Cycle	Assessment plan includes at least one indirect measure clearly connected to each learning goal. It is clear how these measures will be used to determine student learning.	Assessment plan includes indirect measures that are connected to some, but not all learning goals. It is not always clear how these measures will be used to determine student learning.	Assessment plan includes no indirect measures of student learning.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets/Exceeds Standards	<input type="checkbox"/> Approaches Standards	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Attention
	Assessment plan includes at least one direct measure clearly connected to each learning goal. It is clear how these measures will be used to determine student learning.	Assessment plan includes direct measures that are connected to some, but not all learning goals. It is not always clear how these measures will be used to determine student learning.	Assessment plan includes no direct measures of student learning.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets/Exceeds Standards	<input type="checkbox"/> Approaches Standards	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Attention
	Assessment plan provides a clear cycle of goals to be assessed each year, and indicates when all goals will be assessed.	Assessment plan provides a cycle of goals to be assessed each year, but not all goals are represented.	Assessment plan provides no cycle of goals to be assessed each year.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Meets/Exceeds Standards	<input type="checkbox"/> Approaches Standards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Needs Attention