

## Institutional Effectiveness Report 2020-21

**Program:** Political Science BS

**College and Department:** College of Arts & Sciences – Department of Political Science

**Contact:** Loretta Maxwell

**Mission:** Within the context of the University's mission, the mission of the Department is to provide students with a quality liberal arts education that prepares them for a rapidly changing world and a variety of work environments and post-graduate educational possibilities.

The Department of Sociology and Political Science has the primary mission of offering strong academic programs in sociology, criminology and criminal justice, social work and political science. It provides students with a quality liberal arts education that prepares them for a rapidly changing world and a variety of work environments and postgraduate educational possibilities. Students are educated to not only master a diverse body of knowledge but also to think critically, analyze data, and clearly communicate what they know and discover. Recognizing that we live in an increasingly technological and diverse world, we seek to incorporate technological expertise and appreciation of human diversity into our courses. The Department also strives to serve the wider university, the Upper Cumberland region, and the nation through research and public service.

### **Program Goal:**

- PG 1: The Program of Political Science will recruit a sufficient number of students to sustain a strong educational program and promote lifelong learning in support of the strategic plan (Strategic Goal Two: Tactics [www.tntech.edu/strategic](http://www.tntech.edu/strategic)) .
- PG 2: Students will judge that a sufficient number of curricular and co-curricular activities were offered by the program as reported by our students.

### **Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)s**

- SLO 1: Students will acquire the critical thinking skills to be prepared for employment and graduate/law school. (See Strategic Plan Education for Life/ Tactics B ii: "...promote analytical

## Assessment Methods:

*PG 1: The Program of Sociology will recruit a sufficient number of students to sustain a strong educational program and promote lifelong learning in support of the strategic plan.*

1. The Program will monitor enrollment and graduation rates.
2. The Program is dedicated to remaining involved in recruitment initiatives including TTU Fall Preview Day and Spring Showcase during which we give out TTU "swag" to prospective students.

*PG 2: Students will judge that a sufficient number of curricular and co-curricular activities were offered by the program as reported by our students.*

1. Departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey.
2. Student Assessment of Curricular Effectiveness: Completed by student majors
3. Co-Curricular Options ("Expand and improve academic and co-curricular programs to enhance global understanding, experience, and education" [www.tntech.edu/strategic](http://www.tntech.edu/strategic)):

*SLO 1: Students will acquire the critical thinking skills to be prepared for employment and graduate/law school.*

1. The California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST) is a senior exit exam taken by all graduate seniors at Tennessee Tech

**Results:**

*PG 1: The Program of Sociology will recruit a sufficient number of students to sustain a strong educational program and promote lifelong learning in support of the strategic plan.*

1. The Program will monitor enrollment and graduation rates.

| Year | Number of POLS General Track | Number of POLS Legal Studies | Number of Total POLS Majors |
|------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2020 | 43                           | 42                           | 85                          |
| 2020 | 41                           | 44                           | 85                          |
| 2019 | 52                           | 34                           | 86                          |
| 2018 | 48                           | 36                           | 84                          |
| 2017 | 62                           | 32                           | 94                          |
| 2016 | 48                           | 31                           | 79                          |

Graduation: Fall 2014 cohort: 61.5% graduated within 6 years from Tennessee Tech (2020).

2. The Program is dedicated to remaining involved in recruitment initiatives including TTU Fall Preview Day and Spring Showcase during which we give out TTU “swag” to prospective students.

**Threshold of Acceptability:** The enrollment threshold for Political Science is 75 students; if our number of majors fall below that threshold we will increase our recruitment initiatives.

*PG 2: Majors in Political Science will have sufficient curricular and co-curricular options.*

1. Departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey (Full results in Appendix 2).

**Thinking about the entire political science curriculum, please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements: (N=25)** **2019-2020 POLS Major Survey**

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|  |                   |          |                   |                |       |                |
|--|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------------|-------|----------------|
|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Somewhat Agree | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|--|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------------|-------|----------------|

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2. Educational Testing Services (ETS) major field examination

Total ETS Scores:

|             | TTU Data |      |    | National Data |       |       |
|-------------|----------|------|----|---------------|-------|-------|
|             | Mean     | S.D. | N  | Mean          | S.D.  | N     |
| Spring 2021 | 149      | 14   | 5  | 152.3         | 13.9  | 4190  |
| Fall 2020   | 145      | 14   | 7  | 152.3         | 13.9  | 4190  |
| Spring 2020 | 149.6    | 14.8 | 14 | 152.3         | 13.9  | 4190  |
| Fall 2019   | 140.4    | 17.2 | 8  | 130.9         | 152.2 | 3536  |
| Spring 2019 | 149.6    | 14.3 | 14 | 152.2         | 13.9  | 3536  |
| Fall 2018   | 139      | 1    | 2  | 152.4         | 14    | 2268  |
| Spring 2018 | 155      | 7    | 9  | 152.4         | 13.7  | 226.8 |
| Fall 2017   | 153.2    | 14   | 7  | 142           | 8     | 1065  |
| Spring 2017 | 147      | 13   | 19 | 152           | 13.8  | 6691  |
| Fall 2016   | 142      | 9    | 29 | 148.3         | 12.4  | 4998  |

ETS Sub-Scores:

|                                     | FY2020 |          | FY2021 |          |      |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|----------|------|--------------------|
|                                     | N      | TTU Mean | N      | TTU Mean | S.D. | National Mean 45.7 |
| US Government and Politics          | 22     | 47.6     | 12     | 50.4     | 12.0 | 54.0               |
| Comparative Government and Politics | 22     | 45.7     | 12     | 49.3     | 14.7 | 54.0               |

**Threshold of Acceptability:**

1. Failure to achieve gains in the POLS 1030 course post-test would require a meeting with the

CITI Research Ethics Training and CITI PI/Co-PI Training: POLS-LS Majors are required to pass at 80% or higher and receive Certification. They may re-take the test until they achieve this score.

**Appendices:**

1. Curriculum Map
2. POLS Major Survey
3. Student Assessment of Curricular Effectiveness



## Appendix 1: Curriculum Map

|                                     | LEARNING OUTCOMES - Political Science Majors |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| REQUIRED COURSES<br>AND EXPERIENCES | 1-   |



## Appendix 2: POLS Major Survey

Thinking about the entire political science curriculum, please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements: (N=25) 2019-2020 POLS Major Survey

|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Somewhat Agree | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|--|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------------|-------|----------------|
| The political science curriculum exposes me to a broad range of content in the field of political science. | 1                 |          |                   |                |       |                |

## Appendix 3: Student Assessment of Curricular Effectiveness

COURSES: **Required;**

|           |   |     |     |
|-----------|---|-----|-----|
| POLS 3700 | The Legislative Process                                   | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 3710 | The American Executive                                    | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 3810 | Judicial Process  | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4100 | International Law   | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4210 | American Political Parties                                | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4220 | Campaigns and Elections                                   | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4230 | Scandal and Corruption in US Politics                     | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4250 | Political Communications                                  | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4310 | CON LAW I: Struggle for Federal Powers and Accountability | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4320 | CON LAW II: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights              | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4400 | Political Satire  | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4410 | Political Theory: Ancient and Medieval                    | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4420 | Political Theory: Early Modern                            | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4430 | Power and Privilege on the Screen                         | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4510 | Comparative Government: Europe                            | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4520 | Comparative Political Behavior                            | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4610 | Public Administration & Public Policies                   | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4700 | Tennessee Trial Practices                                 | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4730 | First Amendment Law and Analysis                          | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4910 | Seminar in Public Law                                     | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4911 | Special Projects  | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4920 | Seminar in Comparative Politics                           | Yes | Yes |
| POLS 4950 | Political Participation Internship                        | Yes | Yes |