

## **International Studies Major**

### **Data-Based Decisions**

#### **Learning Objective 1**

*To demonstrate knowledge of international relations, international security, and political systems around the world.*

We collected information from course syllabi for POLS 2100 Introduction to International Politics, 2200 Comparative Politics, and 4464 International Security. We determined these course would fulfill Learning Objective 1. We undertook an analysis of grades for these courses beginning with the Fall 2013 semester and gathered data up to the Fall 2016 semester. We found that more than 85% of our students earned a grade of C- or above. This suggested that the majority of our students were meeting or close to meeting Learning Objective 1.

We also looked at statistics from the IDEA surveys that were sent to our students beginning with the Fall 2013 semester and collected data up to the Fall 2016 semester. The analysis provided shows that our department rated Similar, Higher, or Much Higher than peers in our comparison group. (See outcomes data <http://politicalscience.usu.edu/about/assessment>)

Based on comments made by student from the IDEA surveys, more discussions have been included in POLS 2200. In addition, debates are being introduced. Debates help clarify issues and help students better understand the contrasting points of views on important questions.

#### **Learning Objective 2**

*International experience.*

We collected information from course syllabi for POLS 5960 International Studies Internship. We determined this course would fulfill Learning Objective 2. We undertook an analysis of grades for this course beginning with the Fall 2013 semester and gathered data up to the Fall 2016 semester. We found that 100% of our students earned a passing grade. This suggested that that our students were meeting or close to meeting Learning Objective 2.

### **Learning Objective 3**

*To demonstrate a basic level of fluency in a foreign language.*

We undertook an analysis of grades for 3000 Introduction to Political Research and above level language courses that our students have participated in. Beginning with the Fall 2013 semester we gathered data up to the Fall 2016 semester. We found that more than 95% of our students earned a grade of C- or above. This again suggested that the majority of our students were able to fulfill Learning Objective 3.

There will be increased emphasis on causal inference and on understanding object oriented programming. These skills are among the most sought after on the job market according to employer surveys.

### **Learning Objective 4**

*To demonstrate orally and in writing the ability to analyze and critically evaluate ideas and arguments related to international politics.*

We collected information from course syllabi for POLS 4990, Senior Research Seminar. We determined this course would fulfill Learning Objective 4. We undertook an analysis of grades for this course beginning with the Fall 2013 semester and gathered data up to the Fall 2016 semester. We found that more than 95% of our students earned a grade of C- or above. This suggested that the majority of our students were meeting or close to meeting Learning Objective 4.

We also looked at statistics from the IDEA surveys that were sent to our students beginning with the Fall 2013 semester and collected data up to the Fall 2016 semester. The analysis demonstrated that our department rated Similar, Higher, or Much Higher than peers in our comparison group. (See outcomes data <http://politicalscience.usu.edu/about/assessment>)

Based on student comments from the IDEA surveys students didn't always see how the assigned reading related to lectures. Now, to make the connection clear, the instructors in POLS 4990 make a point of discussing assigned readings at the beginning of class and assign current articles that incorporate the themes being discussed.