Political Science Graduate Program
Assessment Plan

Learning Objective 1
Understand research design and methods important to the field and use them to conduct research about significant political questions.

- **Assessment Plan for Learning Objective 1**
  At the end of each semester, the department will use:
  POLS 6010 – Research Design course grades
  as well as IDEA evaluation scores for POLS 6010 for assessment purposes

Learning Objective 2
Demonstrate familiarity with scholarly literature in the student’s specific field of inquiry.

- **Assessment Plan for Learning Objective 2**
  For students in the American Politics and Political Theory Track:
  At the end of each semester, the department will use:
  POLS 6020 – Public Policy Analysis course grades
  POLS 6030 – Political Theory, Political Economy and Capitalism course grades
  POLS 6280 – US Institutions course grades,
  as well as IDEA evaluations for POLS 6020, 6030, and 6280 for assessment purposes

  For Students in the International Security Track:
  At the end of each semester, the department will use:
  POLS 6220 – Theories of Comparative Politics course grades
  POLS 6250 – Theories of International Relations course grades
  POLS 6260 – Topics in International Politics course grades
  as well as IDEA evaluations for POLS 6220, 6250, and 6260 for assessment purposes
Learning Objective 3
Effectively apply critical thinking and analytical skills to address significant issues in the political world.

- **Assessment Plan for Learning Objective 2**
  For students in the American Politics and Political Theory Track:
  At the end of each semester, the department will use:
  - POLS 6020 – Public Policy Analysis course grades
  - POLS 6030 – Political Theory, Political Economy and Capitalism course grades
  - POLS 6280 – US Institutions course grades
  as well as IDEA evaluation scores for POLS 6020, 6030, and 6280 for assessment purposes

  For Students in the International Security Track:
  At the end of each semester the department will use:
  - POLS 6220 – Theories of Comparative Politics course grades
  - POLS 6250 – Theories of International Relations course grades
  - POLS 6260 – Topics in International Politics course grades
  as well as IDEA evaluations for POLS 6220, 6250, and 6260 for assessment purposes

Learning Objective 4
Write clearly and cogently about political questions, using appropriate language in the discipline, and be able to construct organized and coherent verbal presentations on political topics.

- **Assessment Plan for Learning Objective 4**
  At the end of each semester, the department will use:
  - POLS 6970 – Thesis Research course pass/fail rates for assessment purposes