

**Bachelor's of Science Program in Political Science**  
**Department of Political Science and International Affairs**  
Comprehensive Program Review  
Follow-up Report 2007-2008

The Political Science Program contributes to the overall Mission of Kennesaw State University as well as the global orientation of our current Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) – *Global Learning for Engaged Citizenship*. Its contribution to experiential learning, commitment to diversity, and collaborative relationships with the various communities are valued and central to the mission of the college and university. Future program development and enhancement will be accomplished through continued reassessment of the curriculum and the program.

1. Provide evidence of *quality* enhancement of the program since 2003.

The Political Science Program continuously reassesses its curricular needs, structures, and institutional supports needed to better serve our students. In 2003 the following Action Plan priorities were identified and acted upon. Each bullet details program enhancements made between 2003 and 2007/2008.

**A. To examine and review the curriculum to enhance its quality and delivery efficiency, per the recommendations from stakeholders and the Program Review Council.**

- According to the recommendations of the Program Review Council, the department undertook an extensive review and revision of the Political Science major. This revision resulted in the complete restructuring of the 'Upper Division' Major Requirements. The new curriculum now has "a structured upper-division core" that covers the basic knowledge and understanding in the major sub-fields of the discipline, and provides some commonality in students' learning experiences. Additionally, our major is now divided into four (4) distinct, professionally oriented concentrations: Legal Studies, Government and Professional Politics, Public Service and Public Policy, and Global Studies.
- In 2007/2008 faculty in the political science program once again undergoing curricular enhancements to reflect the importance of Retention-Progression-Graduation (RPG) and the QEP's goal to expand global options for our students. The proposed undergraduate changes will be streamlined to allow for greater ease of course selection through an enhanced menu approach. In addition, revision of the lower-division major requirements such as adding a new course of POLS 2220: Introduction to Legal Studies and changing POLS 3334: Comparative Politics to POLS 2240: Introduction to Comparative Politics, intends to strengthen the skills and knowledge that students are expected to develop before taking upper-division courses in the major.

**B. To add two full-time faculty: one to support the international requirement, and the other for the American Government requirement of the major. Redirection of relevant faculty members to support the two graduate programs has limited our ability to offer some courses as frequently needed to grow the program.**

- The program maintains an aggressive hiring strategy in order to improve program quality. Since fall 2003 the program has added three faculty members who specialize in regional politics in Western European, Middle East, and South Asia. Additionally, it has obtained six more faculty lines to recruit faculty in support of the concentrations in legal studies, public service and government and professional politics.

**C. To expand institutional support for technology and facility needs. This includes adding more computer-equipped classrooms as well as a large *seminar-style* room for class use.**

- All program courses are taught in computer-equipped classrooms in the new Social Sciences Building.
- Seminar-style rooms are now available in the new Social Sciences Building.
- The Department has allocated fund to join the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) that provides access to an extensive collection of downloadable data to facilitate faculty and student research.

2. Provide evidence of *productivity* enhancement of the program since 2003.

In 2003 the following Action Plan priorities were identified and acted upon:

**A. To actively promote the two certificates programs (Alternative Dispute Resolution and Professional Politics) through advisement and to emphasize the practical skills and career opportunities that will benefit the Political Science Students.**

- Coordinators of both certificate programs have been active in promoting the programs and have expanded course selections of the program to provide more flexibility for students to complete the program. ADR certificate program helps promote the Department's Master's Program in Conflict Management, while the Professional Politics certificate complements the new concentration of the political science major: Government and Professional Politics.

**B. To actively recruit more students into our major via Mock Trial and other simulation activities, especially as the current political climate is favorable to the mission and value of the program.**

- The continued success of the KSU Mock Trial program and the creation of the Legal Studies concentration have attracted more students to the program. The overall number of declared majors has increased from 238 (Fall 2002) to 359 (Fall 2006).

- The political science program graduated 55 majors in FY 2007, compared to 35 in FY 2002.
3. Identify the action plans and priorities from the 2003 Follow-Up Report that have been accomplished.
    - All of the “High Priority Action Plan: Level One Importance” priorities as well as one of the two Level-Two Importance Action Plans were accomplished within the Political Science Program.
  4. Identify the action plans and priorities from the 2003 Follow-Up Report that still need to be addressed and indicate a timeline for their completion. If specific action plans and priorities have changed since 2003, please explain.

### **Priority Action Plan: Level Two Importance**

#### **Support for salary increases that reflect the versatile contributions of KSU’s political science faculty members who are highly productive in scholarship and highly cost-effective in generating weighted credit hours.**

- Salary compression affects our mid and senior-level Political Science faculty who are highly productive in teaching and research yet do not receive remuneration commensurate with their contributions. A multi-year corrective measure at the college and university level is needed to address this issue.
5. Address the current status of the program’s *viability*. If viable, justify whether the program should be sustained, reconfigured, or enhanced.
    - a. Indicate how the program advances specific goals and action steps of KSU’s Strategic Plan.
      - Goal 1, Step 2: The political science program’s Global Studies concentration supports the global awareness component of KSU’s mission as well as of the QEP.
      - Goal 1, Step 8: The political science program contributes to enhanced global understanding and offers students practical skills that will enable them to work in the global arena within either the private or public sectors.
      - Goal 1, Step 10: The program continues to expand its online course offerings.
      - Goal 1, Step 11: Political Science faculty contribute to the increased scholarship emphasis at KSU through the publication of scholarly books and articles, and also make paper presentations at international, national, and regional professional conferences.
      - Goal 2, Steps 3 and 10: Many of the 2007-2008 undergraduate program revisions explained above are designed to improve RPG.

- Goal 4, Step 4: The political science program actively encourages and supports experiential learning experiences through Mock Trial and internships. The support staff the department receives in FY 2008 from Career Services is expected to further enhance the department's performance in this area.
- b. Identify resources needed to strengthen the program's ability to meet the goals of KSU's Quality Enhancement Plan.
- Increased Study Abroad Scholarships for our majors is needed to enable them to study abroad.
  - More support for faculty to expand the global comparative perspective in their course materials.
- c. If the program is delivered off-campus, please provide a cost analysis of the off-site delivery.
- N/A
- d. Indicate the resources needed to sustain, reconfigure, or enhance the program's quality and productivity.
- Additional faculty and staff lines to meet the continued growth of the program.
  - Additional office space is needed for the program's growing faculty and staff.