POLS 110 – Social and Behavioral General Education Assessment
2017-2018 - Results

Goal/Objective: Students enrolled in POLS 110: Introduction to American Government will demonstrate knowledge that corresponds to the Social and Behavioral General Education learning objectives.

Assessment Measure: Direct – Standardized Test

Criterion for Success: Average Score of 6 out of 10 questions answered correctly.

Outcome: Criterion not met.

Summary of findings: The Political Science department administered a Gen-Ed Assessment in POLS 110: Introduction to American Government. The assessment questionnaire was administered in two course sections in Fall 2017 and in three course sections in Spring 2018. In total, 166 students completed the assessment. The assessment was administered during the final two weeks of the semester and tested general content knowledge related to the five learning objectives associated with the Social and Behavioral Sciences General Education learning objectives. There were ten questions in total on the assessment. Because the assessment was short, only the total number of correct answers is reported rather than results disaggregated by learning objective. The criterion for success was an average score of 6 out of 10 questions answered correctly. This constitutes a passing score for an introductory course. The assessment fell just short of meeting the target. The average score for all 166 tests was 5.5 correctly answered question, just missing the target of an average of 6 correct questions. Breaking down the results further, 44.6% of students earned a score of 5 or less, while 55.4% of students earned a passing grade of 6 or more. Put differently, a majority of students enrolled in the course earned a passing grade on the assessment. These results are summarized in the table below.

	Fall 2017	Spring 2018	Total
Count	75	91	**166**
Average Score	5.5	5.5	**5.5**
# Fail (0-5)	33	41	**74**
% Fail	44.0%	45.1%	**44.6%**
# Pass (6-10)	42	50	**92**
% Pass	56.0%	54.9%	**55.4%**

Improvement Narrative: There are three main areas for improvement moving forward. First, the department is undertaking a review of the questions to determine on which questions students had the weakest performance. The POLS 110 instructors will be asked to consider whether or not those questions need to be rewritten for clarity or if additional classroom instruction time needs to be devoted to teaching those concepts. Second, additional questions will be developed in order to better assess each of the five social and behavioral sciences General Education learning objectives. This will allow for results to be reported for each learning objective in the 2018-2019 cycle. Lastly, the General Education assessment was administered separately from the typical POLS 110

departmental assessment, also given in the final two weeks of the semester. There is concern that students experienced assessment fatigue from taking two assessments in a single class period. To counter this possibility, the General Education assessment questions will be embedded in the POLS 110 departmental assessment. Questions will be analyzed separately be the assessment coordinator, however. Given that the target was nearly met and the planned improvements detailed here, the target should be met during the 2018-2019 assessment cycle.