

BA International Relations – Assessment Plan

Program Learning Objectives

The major in international relations is designed to enable students to:

1. Have a good understanding of the field of international relations, including an introduction to the politics of other countries and to inter-relationships among countries.
2. To achieve a deep understanding of a specialized track in the broader area of international relations. These tracks consist of global security, political economy and development, and governance of nations.
3. To encourage them to study a set of political science courses and courses from other disciplines that will aid them in achieving an understanding of their chosen track.
4. To find source material about problems in international relations and proposed solutions and to write coherent, rigorous analyses about these problems and proposals.
5. To assist them in undertaking programs of study abroad, including as appropriate, individual internships.
6. As appropriate for individual students, advise them thoroughly and prepare them rigorously for graduate study in international relations, public policy, and other graduate programs.
7. To begin the study of a foreign language or further their knowledge of a language already begun.

Program Assessment Plan (frequency of implementation)

Direct methods

- Core and elective courses in the BA Political Science curriculum contain embedded assignments, research papers, and exams that measure achievement of program learning objectives. (every term)
- As appropriate for students, completion of reflective memo, journal, research paper related to internship experience. (possible measure) (annual)

Indirect methods

- Post-graduation placement in graduate school, or employment as reported in senior survey (percentage accepted, quality of the programs) . (annual)
- Success in professional schools and ultimate job placement as reported in alumni survey. (every 5 years)
- Awards and Scholarships received by students. (annual)
- High level of satisfaction with overall program, advising, and teaching quality ratings in senior survey (annual)

- High level of ability self-assessment for program learning outcomes in senior survey (annual) and alumni surveys (every 5 years)
- Senior focus group review of program quality and learning processes (possible measure) (every other year)

Assessment Data Review

Assessment data will be reviewed annually by the undergraduate program oversight committee.