**Department of Political Science, January 2019**

**ASSESSMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES, Graduate program**

The Political Science department only admits students who intend to complete a doctoral degree. The learning objectives for the doctoral program are as follows:

1. Display mastery of at least one subfield in the discipline of political science (American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, or Formal Methods) and strong familiarity with another.

2. Display the ability to design and produce publishable research.

3. Achieve the doctoral degree within six years.

**Assessment procedure**

The Political Science department will track annually the following measures of student outcomes relative to these learning objectives:

LO 1 (mastery of subfields):

* Major comprehensive exams taken each year: terms to completion, number high pass/pass/low pass/fail
* Minor comprehensive exams taken each year: terms to completion, number high pass/pass/low pass/fail
* Completion of comp exams: terms to completion
* Subfields of exams

LO 2 (production of research):

* Second year paper: terms to completion, number high pass/pass/low pass/fail
* Prospectus: terms to successful pass, number of attempts to pass

LO 3 (completion of doctorate):

* Number of students finished each year and terms to completion

In addition to gathering this data each year, the department will undertake a detailed annual review process of all graduate students in the program. In May of each year, each faculty member will enter numerical scores and qualitative comments for every graduate student with whom they have had academic interactions in the past year. These scores and comments will be aggregated, presented and discussed at two meetings of the full faculty in May. The Director of Graduate Studies will write letters summarizing the department’s evaluation and recommendations for each student. While this detailed review will not produce assessment information directly for audiences outside the department, it will allow us to evaluate deeply and consistently how well graduate students are performing and whether the program appears to be helping them to advance toward their doctorates.

At the conclusion of the annual graduate review, the Director of Graduate Studies will also review the data described above against past trends. If the DGS perceives needs/opportunities to improve aspects of the program or our assessment procedures, he/she will make proposals to the department.