

AY20 GEC Improvement Report: Civic Engagement

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS

F19 POLS 101

n = 31

AY19 Recommendation for Improvement: Although it is unusual for all students to perform uniformly at the Proficient level in all criteria at the 100-level, no improvement plan is required. However, a review of assignment demands might be in order, especially for a 100-level course. The AY20 Gen Ed CE Improvement Plan should report on the results of this effort and provide data on a course where the improvements have been operationalized.

Improvements (briefly describe improvements made based on the recommendation above):

The assignment is currently an ungraded assignment in the course. Altering this to a graded assignment may reveal more nuanced assessment of the assignment. The program currently has not plans to make this adjustment.

A more promising assessment practice may be to touch base with students post-class and see if they have engaged in similar civic engagement practices. This could conceivably be integrated into alumni interviews.

Program Civic Engagement Verticality (briefly describe how Civic Engagement is reinforced in the program curriculum & co-curriculum, e.g. club activities):

POLS 314, State and Local Government: Assignment requires writing to multiple public officials

POLS 350, Public Policy: Above, in tandem with group project in which students collaborate on identifying a problem in their community, research the problem and ‘best practices’, propose a solution as part of in-person testimony to appropriate public agency.

POLS 310, Legislative Politics, and POLS 310, Oregon Politics (non-required elective, Weekend College): Student travel to Oregon State Capital and learn ‘how the sausage is made’. A number of skills are inculcated, including professionalism in appearance, decorum in governmental settings, and communication skills with public officials. These courses hold significant promise in enhancing student civic engagement skills in the program. However the cost of transport, lodging and meals for students traveling from La Grande to Salem may preclude these courses full integration into the required elements of the program.

Faculty Review (Have the results of these improvements been reviewed by program faculty?): **Not applicable, you can't improve on perfection** 😊